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Near East & South Asia

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22 October Middle East and South Asia Review

LD221308 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Missile Attack on Kuwait—Iran carried out a new "aggression" against Kuwait 22 October by firing a Silkworm missile at a floating industrial oil-loading platform off Al-Ahmadi port, a Kuwaiti Defense Ministry source announced in a statement broadcast by Kuwait radio. The attack inflicted casualties among a number of workers and caused a fire which was subsequently extinguished, the source added. In remarks cited by KUNA, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah confirmed that the missile was launched from the Al-Faw area, which is occupied by Iranian troops, noting that Kuwaiti forces on Faylakah Island observed the Silkworm heading south and falling on the platform. Kuwait is currently taking "appropriate measures" to deal with this type of missile, he disclosed.

In the wake of the missile attack, the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires to protest "this serious and unjustifiable aggression" which shows Iran's "premeditated insistence" on dragging regional countries into the Iran-Iraq conflict, according to an official source cited by KUNA. The Iranian envoy was informed that Kuwait will reconsider its entire relations with Iran if the latter continues its attacks on Kuwait. KUNA also noted that the Arab League secretary general telephoned Kuwaiti leaders to express the Arab states' "complete solidarity" with Kuwait in the face of the repeated Iranian attacks. For Iran's part, Tehran radio cited news agency reports on the Silkworm attack, without mentioning that Iran was responsible.

The Iranian attack followed an official Kuwaiti denial of news agency reports about explosions in southern Kuwait the previous day. Describing the reports as "baseless," a Kuwaiti security source cited by KUNA denied that any explosions took place in Kuwait 21 October. A Saudi source likewise dismissed an AP report that Iran had fired a Silkworm missile at the Saudi-Kuwaiti Al-Khafji oil terminal 21 October, describing the story as "categorically untrue," according to SPA.

Tehran radio had cited news agency reports from Dubayy about a "big explosion" in a power station near Kuwait's southern border with Saudi Arabia 21 October. The radio noted "rumors" that the Kuwaiti power station at Mina' Su'ud was out of action.

Iraqi Raid—Iraqi aircraft raided a large maritime target near the Iranian coast 21 October, scoring an "accurate and effective" hit, an Iraqi spokesman announced in a statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio. Tehran radio confirmed that an Iranian oil tanker was hit and damaged in the vicinity of Khark Island.

Iranian Policy—An Iranian Foreign Ministry official visiting the FRG warned of Iran's intention to stop the oil exports of other Gulf states if the United States brings Iran's oil exports to a halt by further attacks, DPA reported. The official assured journalists that Iran will not act against U.S. bases and institutions in other countries, but he said this does not mean that Tehran will restrict itself to the Gulf.

Kuwaiti Policy—The Kuwaiti Cabinet discussed "all dimensions and repercussions" of recent events in the Gulf during an extraordinary meeting 21 October, KUNA reported. In a press interview cited by Kuwait radio, Defense Minister Shaykh Salim reaffirmed Kuwait's determination to reject any pressure to establish foreign bases on its territory, and he noted that Kuwait is now obliged to spend more on weapons because of conditions in the region.

Turkish Statement—A Turkish Foreign Ministry statement reported by ANATOLIA expressed Turkey's regret and concern about "the latest mutual actions that have led to a renewed escalation of tension in the Gulf." Turkey will continue its dialogue with Iran and Iraq in an attempt to stop the escalation and prevent the war from spreading to other countries, the statement added.

Iran-Nicaragua

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega during his visit to Managua, Tehran radio reported. Ortega reportedly said he hopes to visit Iran and conveyed an invitation for the Iranian president to visit Nicaragua.

Saudi Arabia

U.S. Visit—Crown Prince 'Abdallah termed his visit to the United States and his talks with President Reagan as "good and positive," SPA reported.

Memorandum With UK—The minister of defense and aviation signed a "memorandum of understanding" with the British defense secretary on the "transfer of technical know-how" between the two countries, SPA noted.

Jordanian-USSR Relations

Jordan views Soviet Mideast policy as an example of "honesty, wisdom, evenhandedness, and credibility," according to an editorial published in *Al-Dustur*. The editorial added that the Soviet Union is a "true friend" of the Arabs and its stands are "respected and appreciated."

In another development, "Amman sources" cited by Radio Monte Carlo reported that the Soviet Union may be willing to accept a Jordanian request to buy 40 MIG-29's.

Chad-Libya

Ndjamena radio contended in a station commentary that a "very large convoy" of Libyan troops and equipment arrived in Sudan's Darfur Province bordering Chad to support Libyan forces already there. According to the radio, the Libyan troops in Sudan are waiting for orders from the Libyan leadership to attack Chad.

JANA replied by asserting that Ndjamena radio is totally under U.S. and French hegemony and has not ceased from "concocting lies" on the presence of "imaginary" Libyan troops in Sudan. JANA emphasized that Chad uses such allegations as a means of justifying another "aggression" against Libyan territory.

Islamic Affairs

ICIC Debates Afghanistan, Palestinian Issues

PM211545 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in English 15 Oct 87 p 1

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Jifri Report: "Sever Soviet Ties, Urges ICIC"]

[Text] Mecca, 14 Oct—'Abd al-Rahman 'Abd al-Khaliq, the renowned Kuwaiti Islamic activist, has called upon the Islamic states to sever their relations with the Soviet Union for its continued occupation of Afghanistan.

'Abd al-Khaliq made the call while participating in the debate on Afghanistan by the Islamic Contemporary Issues Committee (ICIC) during the third general Islamic conference here yesterday. The committee also discussed the Islamisation of the Palestinian revolution.

Abu Shakir [Rafiq al-Natshah], PLO representative in the Kingdom, said that PLO members always criticise Soviet officials when they meet using harsher words than those who think that "we are lenient towards the Russians".

"We oppose the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and we have never taken a stand against mujahidin, as their cause is as Islamic as ours," Abu Shakir said.

"But I want the ICIC to let the mujahidin make the resolution of condemning the Soviet intervention", Abu Shakir said in response to 'Abdal Shaliq's plea to include the denouncement of the PLO for its purported negative stand toward the mujahidin.

Dr Kamil al-Duks, an Islamic scholar and a Palestinian professor at King 'Abdal-Aziz University, Jeddah, said the Afghan mujahidin are about to gain power and replace the puppet regime in Kabul but they do not have the technical capabilities to run the state in an Islamic way.

Dr 'Abdallah Rashwan, an Egyptian intellectual, said that MWL [Muslim World League] is a league for the ummah and not for the regimes and "we should call upon some Islamic regimes to release millions of banknotes paid by poor Muslim people for the mujahidin but frozen by those regimes."

Muhammad Salahuddin, editor of Pakistani weekly *Takbeer*, in his brief speech wanted Pakistan to be made strong to provide a base for the mujahidin.

In an interview with *Gazette*, Abu Shakir expressed his satisfaction on the Muslim world's concensus on the Palestinian cause.

"However, we suffer most from Zionists. We confront the occupying enemy who murders our men, women and children in Palestine. We confront media blackout but we will face all these challenges," he said.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Holds News Conference in Kuwait

JN211737 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has stated that the Gulf war, which is against the peoples of Iraq and Iran, is threatening world peace. At a news conference held in Kuwait the day before yesterday, Brother Abu 'Ammar reiterated his proposal that an Islamic force be formed regardless of the agreement of the two sides, as was done in the case of the Korean war. [sentence as heard]

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: I am still stressing this position within the Islamic group in view of the fact that Palestine is a member of the good offices committee. Abu 'Ammar asserted that Iraq is defending the eastern flank of the Arab nation and demanded that the upcoming Arab summit in Jordan unite all Arabs against external challenges. He added: These are difficult times. To be or not to be; this is our opportunity.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said that he will continue his Arab tour until the Arab summit is convened. He asserted that an Arab foreign ministers' conference should be held before the summit, even if only for 1 day.

'Arafat noted that he has visited a number of Arab states and will visit the rest, including Egypt, before the convocation of the summit. He said his tour is aimed at helping to formulate a unified Arab concept of the summit.

With regard to reports about a PLO-Syrian meeting on the sidelines of the upcoming summit, Abu 'Ammar said that two letters have been sent and we are awaiting the final answer to our proposals on a meeting to be fixed by Syria.

Abu 'Ammar affirmed: The danger is not only approaching; it is also affecting the oil fields. He said that he has found great understanding from the Kuwaiti amir and heir apparent regarding the summit agenda, as well as current developments in the occupied territory and the challenges facing the Palestinian people and revolution.

To Visit Saudi Arabia

PM211001 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 19 Oct 87 p 1

[Report by 'Abd al-Latif 'Abd al-Wahid]

Text] Cairo—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan has confirmed that a PLO delegation headed by 'Arafat will visit the Kingdom in the next few days.

In a statement to *'Ukaz*, Al-Hasan said that Iran is to blame for the security deterioration in the Gulf region. He added that the Iranian policy will not succeed and that Iran will not be able to score any victory against Iraq.

He condemned Iran's demagogic crimes in holy Mecca during the pilgrimage season, noting that any aggression against the holy mosque in Mecca is an aggression against all holy places.

He urged the emergency Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in Amman to adopt a unified Arab strategy, discuss all issues, and come out with a united Arab stand in fulfillment of Palestinian and Arab aspirations.

Algeria

Commerce Minister Receives Iranian Ambassador

LD212030 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—In his meeting with the Algerian Minister of Commerce Mostefa Benamar, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to that country Siavosh Ya'qubi, gave reference to good relations between the two countries and expressed his desire to establish contacts in various fields.

Benamar, who is also the chief of the joint economic commission of the two countries emphasized the necessity of holding a joint session of Iran and Algeria. He invited Behzad Nabavi, the Iranian minister of heavy industries to visit Algiers, so that a joint session be held in the near future.

President Bendjedid Receives SWAPO's Nujoma

LD211130 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Today at his office, President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the party, received Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization]. The talks touched upon the stages and prospects of the Namibian peoples' struggle for independence.

Following the meeting, Sam Nujoma told the national press that his talks with President Chadli Bendjedid had dealt with the armed struggle waged by Namibian revolutionaries and the struggle of SWAPO inside Namibia. Sam Nujoma said President Chadli Bendjedid affirmed Algeria's material and political support for Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO.

Sam Nujoma was also separately received today by Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, and Brigadier Mustapha Chaloufi, general secretary of the Ministry of National Defense.

Messaadia Receives Malian Prime Minister

LD211207 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Today at party headquarters, Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the member of the Political Bureau responsible for the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, received the prime minister of Mali, Mamadou Dembele, who is on a private visit to our country.

The prime minister of Mali expressed his satisfaction with the level and quality of existing cooperation between the two countries. The two sides also noted the significance of mutual bonds which permit the expansion of cooperation between Algeria and Mali.

Chad

Libyan Aircraft Overfly Wour 19 Oct

AB201930 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] Libyan aircraft overflew the town of Wour yesterday, 19 October, at 0840. Libya thus continues to violate our airspace in spite of repeated calls from the OAU asking both Chad and Libya to respect the cease-fire called by the OAU chairman. It must be noted that this Libyan violation of Chadian airspace takes place only 10 days before the meeting in Libreville of the OAU ad hoc committee's group of experts.

Commentary on Libyan Forces in Sudan

AB211122 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] News reaching us from Sudan confirms the fact that the Libyans have still not drawn a lesson from their bitter defeat in Chad and from their diplomatic isolation on the international scene. They (?are pursuing) their eternal policy of defying the odds in a friendly country—Sudan. In fact, a very large convoy of troops and equipment has arrived in Darfur Province from Libya. It primarily includes mercenaries from the Islamic Legion equipped with the latest arms supplied by the USSR. The mission assigned to these vagabonds, these human outcasts, who are (?more interested in) Libyan's oil dollars than in their fate, is to support the Libyan Army, which has now been stationed for a long time in Darfur Province near Chad's eastern border.

By strengthening its military presence in Darfur Province, Libya has turned the western Sudanese province into a Libyan stronghold. In fact, one wonders whether Darfur Province does not belong to Libya already. In any case, the governor of Darfur Province takes orders from a representative of the leader of international terrorism and commander of Libyan troops, not from Khartoum's central administration. Strengthening these Libyan troops at a time when the OAU is waiting for the madman of the Bab al-Aziziya Barracks to present it with documents justifying his occupation of Chad is proof of the major attack Al-Qadhdhafi is preparing to launch against Chad from Sudan. According to information we possess, the Libyan aggressor troops based in Darfur Province are only waiting for orders from Al-Qadhdhafi to attack Chad.

These current preparations show the extent of the complicity with, and total devotion of Al-Sadiq al-Madhi's Sudanese regime to, the (?totalitarian) and terrorist regime of Tripoli. By choosing to compromise with the Libyan regime, the Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi government has resolutely decided to sacrifice the Sudanese people's basic interests to foreign interests, particularly those of Libya.

We Chadians are aware of the seriousness of the situation created by the Al-Qadhdhafi-Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi partnership. We know that a merciless war is being prepared against us on our eastern borders, but we are ready to counter such an attack with our last ounce of energy. We know that we will win the battle and that the mercenaries and their accomplices will meet the fate of all adventurers who attempt to conquer our country. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will be solely responsible for whatever happens since he is completely under the control of and in the tentacles of Al-Qadhdhafi.

Egypt

Reportage on Visit to Cairo by Richard Murphy

Arrives 21 Oct

NC211846 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1743 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, arrived in Cairo this evening from Tel Aviv on a visit scheduled to last for several hours. He was received at Cairo airport by a number of Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials.

Received by 'Abd al-Majid

NC211859 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this evening received Mr Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs.

It has been learned that Murphy conveyed to Dr 'Abd al-Majid the results of the talks which Mr George Shultz held in London as part of the efforts being made to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis.

Leaves Cairo

NC212046 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, left Cairo this evening following a visit that lasted for several hours.

Murphy arrived in Cairo this evening and met with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Sidqi Confers With UAE Oil Minister 21 Oct

NC211456 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received UAE Oil Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah in his office today. The UAE minister arrived in Cairo yesterday on a visit that will last for several days. After the meeting, Sidqi stated that topics of concern to Egypt and the UAE were discussed and that the situation in the Gulf countries was reviewed.

Dr al-'Uutaybah said that the discussions dealt with bilateral cooperation in various economic and technical fields. He added that he had conveyed congratulations from UAE officials to Dr Sidqi on the formation of a new Cabinet. He praised the various achievements which have taken place in Egypt under President Mubarak's wise leadership.

Defense Minister on Modernization of Navy

NC211700 Cairo MENA in English 1330 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Alexandria, Oct 21 (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy premier and minister of defence and military production, said the plan of the Armed Forces aimed at building modern naval units to protect Egypt's shores overlooking the Red Sea considering that it is an important and vital waterway for Egyptian economy and strategy.

Egypt sought at all times to make the Red Sea a peaceful waterway. "We hope that the conflict in the Gulf would not be extended to the Red Sea," he said.

The field marshal was speaking at a celebration here today on Navy Day.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah said the Egyptian Naval Forces were capable of protecting international waterways in the Red Sea and the Suez Canal within Egypt's territorial waters. Egypt was willing to cooperate with Arab countries to secure the Red Sea.

He announced that the Egyptian Naval Forces had received modern Harpoons and other missiles from the United States.

Egypt has a plan to build big naval units after it has succeeded in building small launches, he said.

Navy Day celebrates the day on which the Egyptian Naval Forces sank the Israeli destroyer *Eilat* in 1967.

Admiral Muhammad Sharif al-Sadiq, new Navy commander, said a plan to develop naval forces included modernisation of some Chinese-built submarines and frigates which will be equipped with modern rocket systems.

Al-Baz Confers With PNC Member Sa'id Kamal

NC211850 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met with PNC Member Sa'id Kamal today.

Following the meeting, Kamal said that views were exchanged on developments in the Arab region and on the results of Egypt's discussions with the U.S. secretary of state and with the Soviet first deputy foreign minister.

Kamal added that President Husni Mubarak's remarks in his recent speech on Egypt's adherence to Arab national security and to the charters and treaties to which Egypt contributed confirm Egypt's Arab affiliation.

'Regret' Expressed Over Iran's Position on War

NC211444 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—A joint subcommittee of the Arab Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and Defense and National Security Committees of the People's Assembly has expressed its regret over Iran's position rejecting the peace call addressed to both warring countries from the international community, as represented in Security Council Resolution 598, as well as Iran's persistence in and expansion of its military operations. In a statement issued today, the committee called for ending the Gulf war on the basis of the unanimous Security Council resolution.

The committee also stressed support for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its efforts to safeguard Islamic holy places and the Grand Mosque. It noted that Egypt was the first country to call for the convocation of an Islamic conference to address the Mecca incidents initiated by Iran during the pilgrimage season. The committee also emphasized its support for fraternal Kuwait in defense of its people and territory.

The committee urged the international community—both peoples and governments—to carry out its responsibilities in backing the Palestinian cause and taking action to generate international momentum to convene an international conference under UN auspices to be attended by all concerned parties to reach a just settlement on this issue now that the PLO has recognized all UN resolutions.

The committee asserted that there could be no peace or stability in the region as long as the Palestinian people remain displaced and far from their homeland. It expressed its regret over the U.S. closure of the PLO information offices, saying that this act robs the PLO of its efforts to enlighten the U.S. public about the realities of the Middle East situation.

The committee appealed to the brothers in fraternal Lebanon to agree among themselves, to shun sectarian fanaticism, and to listen to their consciences and hearts to safeguard the unity of Lebanon and its people. It urged the hidden hands and foreign forces to stop interfering in Lebanon's affairs and also called for further efforts to implement the UN resolution on holy Jerusalem. It also asked that the international community take action to end the ongoing war in Afghanistan so that this Islamic country may enjoy its right to independence and self-determination.

The committee noted the close bonds between Egypt and the fraternal Arab countries, stressing that Muslim Arab Egypt is a power and shield for the Arabs and will always adhere to its duty. Concluding its statement, the committee stressed that peace, stability, and development would serve the firm principles of national action in Egypt's foreign policy.

Iranian 'Rejection' of Peace Blamed for Crisis

NC220901 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2305 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Tomorrow's Cairo newspapers agree in their commentaries that the firm blow which the U.S. Navy dealt to the two Iranian oil platforms in the Gulf was in reaction to the repeated Iranian rejection of peaceful efforts to end the Gulf war. It is also regarded as a final warning to Iran against committing any new foolish actions in the area.

Al-Ahram says: We must not forget that it was Iran which brought on itself the blockade it is now complaining about by repeatedly refusing to implement the UN Security Council resolution, objecting to the opening of channels of negotiations, and showing insufficient flexibility, courage, vision, and wisdom to proceed toward peace.

The paper adds: The U.S. operation and the sharp Iranian threats to carry out a massive reprisal action confirm that the United States has indeed gotten involved in the war. In this respect, the paper points to the meetings of the U.S. National Security Council and the Iranian Supreme Council regarding preparation of operations and counteroperations, which heralds an unending escalation.

The paper points out that this hostile military competition by each side was to be expected when the United States increased its naval forces in the Gulf for declared objectives, which are to provide protection for Kuwaiti tankers at the request of a sovereign state that is not a party in the war and to clear international waterways. However, Iran confused this American presence with deliberate provocation.

In a commentary on the same subject, *Al-Akhbar* says that the U.S. action against the two Iranian oil platforms in the Gulf in retaliation for the attack on the U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti oil tanker will encourage Washington to remain firm in the face of any new Iranian attempt against any U.S. ship or interests in the area, particularly since the U.S. action was not met with opposition by the various international circles. The paper refers to the recent statements of U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, in which he warned Iran against committing any new foolish action and emphasized that the United States will respond with greater violence in such a case.

The paper also noted Washington's willingness to inform the Security Council of the measures it took, maintaining that what it did was legitimate self-defense, that the attack on the two Iranian platforms used in hostile actions against targets far from the battlefield was limited, and that it regards the matter as closed at this point.

In conclusion, the paper says that despite the Iranian leaders' usual threats to take revenge against the United States, many are still hoping that the Tehran rulers will come to their senses in due time.

Libya

Chad 'Lies' About Libyan Forces in Sudan

LD212050 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Oct (JANA)—The agent's radio in Ndjamena today alleged that the Great Jamahiriyah has sent forces to Sudan's Darfur Province to attack Chad.

JANA's international affairs editor has commented on this allegation and asserted that the radio of the imperialists' agents in Ndjamena, which is totally under U.S. and French hegemony, over the last few months has not stopped concocting lies about the presence of imaginary Libyan troops in Sudan, or terrorizing the Sudanese people and its popular government within the framework of the official terrorist program formulated by the United States, France, and NATO.

The editor stressed that the aim of such allegations is to subjugate the Sudanese people and to find justification for another act of aggression against Libyan Arab territories. In both cases, however, the Arab people in Libya and Sudan will triumph over imperialism, which has made Chad its own base.

JANA's international editor concluded his comment: Given all these facts, the Sudanese people should not, therefore, listen to Radio America [as received] from Ndjamena, and those who are compelled to enlist in Chad should not listen to allegations concocted by imperialist circles in order to deceive them, to drive them toward a certain and real mass death, and to plant a loathing of their neighbors and friends in the east and north of them. He also warned that imperialism's hostile course toward Sudan will extend to other neighboring countries.

Mauritania

French Presidential Adviser Ends Visit

AB211837 Paris AFP in French 1237 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 21 Oct (AFP)—Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, adviser to the French president for African affairs, left Nouakchott today for Conakry after a 48-hour visit to Mauritania. During his visit Mr Mitterrand was received by Mauritanian leader Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, with whom he discussed bilateral cooperation and African and European issues. He visited an earth [satellite] station, which was built in Nouakchott with French assistance, and a Mauritanian television station.

Sudan

Politicians Condemn Attack on Relief Train

JN181457 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 18 (SUNA)—Opposition leader 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has strongly condemned the recent attack on a relief train by Garang movement in which 34 people were killed.

Taha, in letters to the Armed Forces commander-in-chief and Sudan workers Trade Union Federation denounced the terrorist attack carried out by the rebel forces and the killing of innocent citizens.

He also called for clearcut position against the rebels and to declare the general mobilization to face the hazards of war and to maintain peace.

Meanwhile, the secretary of the parliamentary group of the Sudanese National Party, Amin Bashir Fillin denounced the recent attack on the relief train and described it as regretful and affected the credibility of the agreement which had been reached recently by the southern parties. [sentence as received]

On the other hand, the National Islamic Front "NIF" called on the Sudanese people to participate in the peaceful procession Monday called for by the Popular Trade Union Solidarity to protest the recent Sudan-IMF agreement and to support the Armed Forces to deter the outlaws.

SPLA Urges Besieged Soldiers to Surrender

EA212327 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1100 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Commentary by Emmanuel Ambrose Ocholi-Moi]

[Excerpt] Greetings to the SPLA combatants who destroyed the enemy reinforcements on their way to Ariath and Wau. You have proven the falsity of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's claim that the trains were taking food supplies to the hungry people of Uwayl. Do you, the Sudanese people, believe that these trains were carrying food? Are the captured arms and large numbers of Sudanese soldiers food supplies? Where was that Army colonel going? Was he a supplier of food?

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi deceived you earlier when he said that his troops repulsed our forces during the battle and that our troops numbered 4,000 men. We would like you to know that these troops were going on a reinforcement mission to Uwayl and Wau. This is proven by documents we captured during the battle.

You know that two trains were destroyed and that the other two are now besieged by our forces at Ariath railway station. We ask the besieged soldiers to surrender. If they refuse, our forces will have to deal with them. But we would prefer that they surrender so we can hand them over to the International Committee of the Red Cross, as we always do.

As for you, the SPLA forces surrounding these people, I ask you to be very patient and wait for them to surrender.

If some of you in the trains are Latukas and listening to me now, please come out and surrender to the SPLA forces surrounding you. [passage omitted]

Ethiopian Delegation Slated To Arrive 23 Oct

JN221039 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 22 (SUNA)—A high ranking Ethiopian delegation led by member of Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the State Council for the legal and foreign affairs Amanuel Amde will arrive here on Oct. 23 to communicate special message from Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile-Mariam to Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

The daily *Sawt al-Ummah*, mouthpiece of the Al-Ummah Party of Premier al-Mahdi reported here today.

The paper said the Ethiopian delegation which will stay here for three days will hold meetings with Sudanese high ranking officials, and leaders of political parties and discuss with them issues related to bilateral relations.

The delegation also will conduct news conference and information meetings.

Al-Mirghani To Lead Delegation to Arab Summit

JN201439 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 20 Oct (SUNA)—Sudan will participate in the emergency Arab summit conference to be held in Jordan on 8 November. A high ranking delegation led by State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani will represent Sudan in the conference. This announcement was made to the press today by a responsible Foreign Ministry spokesman. [passage omitted on summit agenda]

Iranian Attack on Kuwaiti Port Denounced

LD182213 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 18 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 18—(SUNA)—Sudan has denounced the recent Iranian attack on the Kuwaiti port of Al-Ahmadi, the violation of the Kuwaiti territorial waters.

A Foreign Ministry communique issued here today (Sunday) said Sudan has been and still calling for ending the Gulf War and has been calling the warring parties not to escalate the war which could trigger other parties not involved in the conflict.

The communique said Sudan had received with concern the Iranian aggression. Sudan denounces and condemns the Iranian aggression and calls upon Iran to cease all acts which could widen the war and to put into effect the Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for ending the war, the communique said.

Tunisia

Bourguiba Expresses Solidarity with Kuwait

LD161319 Kuwait KUNA in English 1209 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Tunis, Oct 16 (KUNA)—President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia has expressed grave concern at the escalating tension in the Arabian Gulf and voiced solidarity with Kuwait for the threats it has been exposed to as a result of that escalation.

Bourguiba's concern was echoed by the premier and Interior Minister Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk and Director of the Presidential Court Amor Chedli after meeting with the president early Friday.

Shortly after the meeting today, Ben Ali said President Bourguiba asked him to convey his feelings of brotherhood and solidarity to the sisterly state of Kuwait.

Prime Minister Speaks With Kuwaiti Counterpart

LD170015 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Entrusted by the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, following the aggression on a foreign vessel at Mina' al-Ahmadi in Kuwait, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the prime minister and interior minister, had telephone contact with His Highness Sa'd al'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister, in which he expressed Tunisia's full solidarity with Kuwait and its attachment to the safety and security of this brotherly country during the critical circumstances it is facing.

Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali also expressed to the Kuwaiti heir apparent Tunisia's deep concern and indignation toward this sinful act that harms the sanctity and sovereignty of a brotherly country and constitutes a clear widening of the conflict, as well as aggravating its regional consequences. The prime minister and interior minister asked his interlocutor to convey to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, the greetings, feelings of affection, and respect of his brother, the supreme combatant President Habib Bourguiba.

Bourguiba, Ministers Review Party Activities

LD171941 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 17 Oct 87

[Excerpt] This morning at the presidential palace in Carthage, President Habib Bourguiba held a working session with Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, prime minister and minister of interior, and Amor Chedli, minister director of the presidential office.

The participants in the session reviewed governmental and party activities, with the supreme combatant pursuing the consolidation of party activities so that the party continues to play its vanguard role in the blessed march of Tunisia.

The prime minister and minister of interior announced in this regard that the supreme combatant, head of state and leader of the party, decided to appoint Dr Hamed Karoui as minister attached to the prime minister and director of the Socialist Destourian Party, thus succeeding Mahjoub Ben Ali, who has been recalled for other tasks. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Foreign Ministry Source on Peace Efforts

JN211133 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1105 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, 21 Oct (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Foreign Ministry today said that the State of Bahrain has always supported all peaceful efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, and called for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598 as an acceptable international method of settling the conflict between the two sides, thus consequently ending the disturbance and tension in the region.

The source expressed Bahrain's regret over the successive developments, the serious escalation aimed at hampering navigation in international waterways, and Iran's frequent attacks on merchant ships, most recently the attack on a U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti oil tanker in territorial waters. The source said that recent developments also include the U.S. reply against Iranian oil installations. The source said that these actions require moves to ease tension.

In conclusion, the source said that Bahrain calls on the international community and the UN Security Council to exert serious efforts to end this bloody war and to avoid further conflicts and confrontation in the Arab Gulf region that would threaten the interests of all world states.

Kuwait

Iranian Missile Hits Al-Ahmadi Oil Terminal

LD220918 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Oct (KUNA)—An Iranian silkworm missile has struck the floating industrial island near Al-Ahmadi this morning. Eyewitnesses told KUNA that a fire broke out on the island. The number of casualties or the extent of material damage caused by the aggression is as yet unknown. Firefighting units are now containing the fire and bringing it under control.

Source Cited on 'Aggression'

LD221050 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Text] A responsible Defense Ministry source has stated to KUNA that Iran this morning carried out another aggression against Kuwait. Iran launched a Silkworm missile that struck a floating industrial oil-loading platform, causing a fire in part of the platform that resulted in casualties among a number of workers.

The source said that the casualties were given immediate first aid and that the fire was extinguished.

Iran Envoy Given Protest

LD221216 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1146 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Oct (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry today summoned Iran's charge d'affaires following the new flagrant aggression Iran carried out against Kuwait by firing a Silkworm missile at the industrial oil terminal island. An official source at the Foreign Ministry has told KUNA that Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, the minister of state for foreign affairs, summoned the charge d'affaires and conveyed to him Kuwait's strong protest and denunciation of this serious and unjustifiable aggression, one that shows Iran's premeditated insistence on dragging the countries of the region not a party to this conflict into this tragic war that Iran insists on continuing, thus disregarding the security and safety of its own people as well as the peoples of the region and the entire world.

Mr al-'Usaymi informed the Iranian charge d'affaires that Kuwait will reconsider its entire relations with Iran if the latter insists on continuing such aggressions. He also informed him that Kuwait places total responsibility for this aggression and all its consequences on Iran. The source added that Iran is still continuing to carry out such unjust and serious aggressions despite Kuwati's attempts, which are characterized by responsibility and self-restraint, to calm the situation in the region and contain the acute tension due to its concern for the security and safety of all the region's peoples. Kuwait has informed all international organizations of this new Iranian aggression.

Saudi Military 'Support' Offered

LD221311 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1250 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Oct (KUNA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait's minister of defense, today received a telephone call from Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, enquiring about the situation in the wake of Iran's aggression against the industrial island used for loading oil near Kuwait's city of Al-Ahmadi.

Prince Sultan in this telephone affirmed the stance of the Saudi king, government, and people as standing at the side of Kuwait concerning this aggression. He also said that the Saudi forces are in complete readiness to support the fraternal Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

Klibi Condemns Missile Strike

LD221217 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1148 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Tunis, 22 Oct (KUNA)—An official source at the Arab League stated here today that Chadli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League and who is currently in

Rome, had telephoned Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, once he had heard the report concerning the Iranian missile striking the Al-Ahmadi oil terminal this morning.

The source told KUNA that Mr Klibi informed Shaykh Sabah that the Arab states stand alongside Kuwait and are in complete solidarity with it in the face of these repeated Iranian aggressions. He also expressed his condemnation of such acts that harm the State of Kuwait's security and sovereignty.

Interior Ministry Denies Reports on Explosions
LD212052 Kuwait KUNA in English 1943 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 21 (KUNA)—An official security source at the Interior Ministry denied tonight reports carried by news agencies which spoke about explosions in southern Kuwait.

The source said those reports are baseless and the Interior Ministry is denying that any explosions have taken place.

Defense Minister on Denying Foreign Bases
LD211421 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Minister of Defense Shaykh Salim al-Sabah has affirmed that Kuwait is not offering any concessions to any quarter on its principled stances. In an interview with the latest issue of *Al-Yaqadhah*, he says that instructions from the country's higher political leadership provide for rejecting any pressure to establish bases on Kuwaiti territory, no matter what type, form, or nationality. He says that these instructions provide for permanent preparedness to defend Kuwait and to keep war, as much as is possible, away from Kuwait and its population.

In this respect he points to the policy encouraging Kuwaitis to undergo military service on a voluntary basis or through conscription to defend the homeland. Shaykh Salim al-Sabah affirms that the Gulf's position is united and that there are no differences between the GCC member countries in the military or other spheres.

In answering a question, he says that every state in the Third World uses arms to defend itself in the current international situation in which wars are artificially provoked so that there is always a market for exporting weapons. He added that as far as Kuwait is concerned, it has from the start place its greatest investment in man himself, attaching importance to education and to constructing sound minds in sound bodies. However, conditions in the region have recently provided for greater spending on arms than in the past.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah stressed that Kuwait has not chosen arms expenditure as an offensive policy but instead as a defensive one. It is not rearming for the sake of rearmament; rather, it is present circumstances that have made it attach importance to arms. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Reviews Gulf Situation, Reagan Message
LD211423 Kuwait KUNA in English 1256 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 21 (KUNA)—The cabinet discussed in an extraordinary session here Wednesday political developments in the Gulf region in the light of latest military and political escalations.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid said that during the session, that was held to complete items on agenda of the regular Sunday meeting, the ministers discussed all dimensions and repercussions of the latest events in the Gulf on all levels.

The ministers deliberated in detail means and steps that should be adopted in this regard and necessary measures to confront and contain any possibility [words indistinct] on the popular and official levels to ensure the country's security and stability, Al-Rashid went on.

He said the meeting, chaired by H.H. Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, further discussed a number of other subjects and adopted necessary resolutions.

Al-Rashid said that the cabinet started meeting with a review of the U.S. President Ronald Reagan's message to H.H. the amir which dealt with latest developments in the Arabian Gulf and efforts exerted to end the Iraq-Iran war in the light of the Security Council Resolution 598.

The crown prince briefed the cabinet on outcome of the short visit to Kuwait by Prime Minister of Bahrain Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah yesterday during which he conveyed a message from Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah to H.H. the amir on latest developments in the Gulf, the state minister went on.

He noted that Shaykh Sa'd further filled in the cabinet members on content of the talks held during the Bahraini guest's visit which focussed on the current Gulf situation, preparations for the emergency Arab summit in addition to bilateral relations.

The cabinet highly appreciated Bahrain's fraternal stands which crystalize deepness of links between the two countries, the minister of state noted.

The prime minister further briefed the cabinet on results of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Kuwait yesterday and his meeting with H.H. the amir. 'Arafat's discussions tackled latest developments in the Arab Gulf, Al-Rashid said, underlining that the cabinet expressed thanks to the stable PLO national Arab stances which reflect natural cohesion among brothers.

Fishing Boats Banned in Territorial Waters
JN220928 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait's Interior Ministry has announced that as of today, fishing boats are banned from Kuwaiti territorial waters from sunrise to sunset with the exception of the maritime zone northeast of Kuwait and neighboring the island of Bubiyan.

PDRY

Ministers Discuss Sea Law, Gulf War
EA211524 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers this morning held its regular meeting chaired by Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers. After reviewing the decisions and directives of its previous meeting, the Council discussed a number of reports and points on its agenda.

It viewed the PDRY draft sea law submitted by the Ministry of Communications, proceeding on the basis of such a law's importance to the economy. The Republic's distinguished and privileged position has an impact on the trade routes linking the west and east, making it a center of maritime commerce. Aden port has become a natural harbor for the surrounding areas.

The Council addressed itself to the need to govern relations arising out of operations and activities at sea in the form of an intergrated sea law providing a legal framework to regulate trade, marine communications, and other matters relevant to the sea. After extensive discussions, the Council adopted the draft law and instructed the competent authorities to submit it to the Supreme People's Council Presidium for ratification. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers reiterated the PDRY's position in favor of ending the Iraq-Iran war and called for negotiations to tackle the problems resulting from the war [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers also examined a report on the visits paid by the minister of communications to Hungary, Poland, the USSR, and Czechoslovakia. The Council considered that the outcome of these fruitful visits to those friendly countries will contribute toward strengthening friendship and cooperation between our country and the socialist countries.

The Council of Ministers also discussed a number of other subjects and reports included on this agenda and took the necessary relevant action.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Receives FRG's Bangemann
LD212111 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, met in his office in Riyadh this morning with His Excellency Dr Martin Bangemann, the FRG minister of economics, who is visiting the Kingdom. During the meeting, aspects of the friendly relations between the two countries and issues of joint interest were discussed. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy, and His Excellency Dr Martin Bangemann, the FRG minister of econonics, this afternoon signed the protocol covering proceedings of the Saudi-German joint committee for economic cooperation's eighth session. The protocol recommends consolidating cooperation between the two countries in the economic, technical, training, and scientific research spheres.

Crown Prince, Kuwaiti Envoy Meet in Washington
LD220907 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Washington, 21 Oct (SPA)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, today received Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah, the ambassador of the sisterly State of Kuwait to the United States.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the United States.

United Arab Emirates

'Arafat, President Conclude Talks 21 Oct
JN211931 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, concluded his talks with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, this afternoon.

During their talks, they discussed the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf region and ways to end the Iraq-Iran war, as well as the current Arab situation. The talks also dealt with developments in the Palestine question on the Arab and international levels, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Amman, and UAE-PLO relations.

'Arafat Departs 21 Oct

JN212055 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2045 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Oct (WAKH)—Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO Executive Committee chairman, departed Abu Duhabi this evening following a 2-day visit to the UAE as part of his tour of a number of regional countries. During his visit, 'Arafat met with His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the UAE.

Reportage on Combat Operations in Gulf War

Basra Casualties Detailed

JN211357 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Basra, South Iraq, Oct 21, INA—The Iranian artillery shelling of Basra City, which reached its peak over the past 45 days, resulted in killing and injuring a large number of civilians in this southern port city, among them children and pupils

INA's correspondent in this Iraqi province said in a report today that over this period Basra's main hospital only received 530 injured, adding that 115 of them died of the serious injuries they sustained during the shelling. Out of the 115 martyrs, the correspondent said, there were 16 children of 12 years of age and less, while among the injured there were 74 children within the age group of 3 months-10 years.

Communique No 2,882

JN211742 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,882 Issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high morale, our valiant Armed Forces continued their combat activities. They inflicted further losses last night and today as follows:

1. To deprive the Zionist Iranian regime of the oil which it uses to serve its evil aggressive purposes against our country, our bold Air Force carried out a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 2300 [2000 GMT] yesterday. The planes dealt it an accurate and effective blow. Our rapacious hawks carried out 69 combat missions today. During these missions, they inflicted new losses in personnel, equipment, and weapons on the enemy. After carrying out these missions, all our planes returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. Our helicopter gunships carried out 25 combat missions against enemy concentrations, equipment, and weapon emplacements, inflicting new losses on the aggressors. Our helicopter gunships then returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. One shovel and five vehicles of various types were damaged, one infantry position and one post were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. One enemy soldier was killed and one post destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Five ammunition dumps were blown up, one scoundrel was killed, one infantry position and one post were destroyed, and one machinegun was damaged in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants killed and one ammunition dump blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. Last night and today, the criminal enemy shelled residential areas in Basra and the Chwarta vicinity with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling martyred two women and injured five civilians and one child. Mercy to our two martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 October 1987

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN212035 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2010 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Statement issued by military spokesman dated 21 October]

[Text] To prevent the criminal Iranian regime from using its resources to attack our country, our heroic Air Force launched a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 2000 [1700 GMT] today, dealing it an accurate and effective blow. After the raid, our planes returned safely to base, God be praised.

[Dated] 21 October 1987

Knesset Defeats Kahane No-Confidence Motion

TA211206 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Knesset today defeated the no-confidence motion submitted by Knesset Member Meir Kahane of KAKH on the security situation.

Shultz Visit Affects Politics, Conference

TA211554 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
21 Oct 87 p 6

["Part 2" of Pinhas 'Inbari commentary entitled "Shultz: Bridges in the Dark": "The Pro-Jordanian Partnership"]

[Text] Ever since Herut member Moshe 'Amirav's contacts with Palestinians were exposed, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has been making efforts to stress what he has in common with Yitzhaq Shamir, even at the expense of what he has in common with Peres.

The most outstanding example of this was provided at the wide-ranging meeting held between the defense minister and the heads of the pro-Jordanian administration in the territories: Civilian Administration officials and appointed heads of municipalities. The message was in the nature of the meeting. Rabin demonstrated the advantages of the policy he shares with Shamir; namely, that of building up an independent pro-Jordanian administration aimed against the PLO. In fact, the process of "Arabizing" the administration in the territories has gained no real achievements because senior Arab officials are refusing to accept genuinely senior posts so as not to offset the PLO. Rabin, however, wanted to demonstrate the political power already embodied in this administration and to prove that it is only in the current situation, when there are no overt political talks between Israel and Jordan, that it is possible to maintain and deepen this process of actual cooperation with Jordan instead of an international conference or any other overt political process.

Rabin deliberately refrained from mentioning the international conference in order to move away from the language of hints. He thus clearly moved toward Shamir's side in the argument with Peres. Rabin also directed a message at Husayn: It is incorrect to view the "Israeli Right" as an obstacle to the political process, the Labor Party defense minister signaled to Amman. There is no difference between him and Shamir on the main political questions. Incidentally, we should recall that when King Husayn made a distinction between the "Right" and those who favor the political process, he vented his anger at the 'Amirav-Al-Husayni talks and his suspicion that Shamir himself had been in on that secret. It is true that Rabin was speaking about a "Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," but his listeners had no doubt that he was speaking to them as partners in a Jordanian delegation and not as PLO supporters. Rabin explained that it had been made clear to him in his contacts with supporters of Jordan that they could not be represented on their own in negotiations with Israel, but would have to be in a delegation with Jordan. This being the case, a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is acceptable to him, but on the condition that there is no question at all of including PLO supporters.

Rabin has been in full agreement with Shamir on this question so far. The prime minister has also given preference to quiet cooperation with Jordan against the PLO over an overt political process in which Jordan would have to go back to cooperating with the PLO against Israel. But within Shamir's camp at least, changes are occurring that in the end could sweep Shamir himself along—and this applies to the continuation of the process that began with the 'Amirav initiative.

Two of the Shamir camp's central pillars, Knesset members Dan Meridor and Ehud Olmert, are due to go to the United States for a meeting with Egyptians, Jordanians, and Palestinians, under the auspices of former President Jimmy Carter—the very same groups Rabin was trying with all his might to stop from participating in such get-togethers. The meeting in the United States is likely to serve as an important test of Rabin's efforts. After the erosion in the Likud's partnership on this policy, Jordan's willingness to carry on with it will be tested. So far, Jordan has rejected the invitations by Carter's people to take part in meetings of this type, in which Hanna Sinyurah would participate. An acceptance this time would express Jordan's return to cooperation with the PLO and the collapse of the defense minister's policy.

By inviting a Palestinian delegation composed of moderate PLO supporters and supporters of Jordan, thus signaling the U.S. desire to restore the political dialogue between the PLO and Jordan, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz did not express support for Rabin's policy. The pro-Jordanian figures in general were not of the type invited to see Rabin or Shamir. Most of them were those who want a renewal of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue.

The Palestinians' refusal to meet with Shultz, however, played into Rabin's hands and extended the life of his policy even further. Rabin can now go to Shultz and tell him that there is nobody with whom to talk, and that it would be better to deepen the practical cooperation with Jordan and not shake it with political adventurism. Rabin would be able to say something similar to those groups that are sitting with Shamir and musing about a dialogue with the Palestinians. He can demonstrate to Peres the nature of his "authentic Palestinians." Peres, for lack of choice, will shrug his shoulders and not interfere with Rabin's continuing his policy, the current policy in the territories.

In the past Shultz leaned toward accepting these arguments and he may agree with them, but the U.S. attitude toward the PLO will, in the end, be determined by the nature of its contacts with the Soviets. In the meantime,

the Palestinians' refusal to meet with him has reinforced the image he has of "terrorists" in everything involving the PLO. This was expressed at his news conference, during which he explained the cancellation of the meeting by threats of terrorism against those invited.

If this is the case, why did the PLO ban the meeting? It seems that the main consideration sprang from reports of an attempt to compose a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation similar to what Rabin spoke of; that is, one based purely on supporters of Jordan.

It is true that in this commentary we have drawn your attention to an interesting development within the Herut concerning the PLO, but this development is not yet ripe. At this moment Shamir is pro-Jordanian and he makes no secret of it. Shultz, too, is not too sympathetic to the PLO. The PLO tried to demonstrate its veto power over any Palestinian delegation of a composition not acceptable to it.

This is a significant consideration but has some grave drawbacks, as detailed above. There are signs that even in the PLO not everyone agrees with the wisdom of the boycott. To be more precise, at first those invited were given the blessing of Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], 'Arafat's deputy, and it was only 2 days later that the PLO changed its position for reasons that are not clear. Up to the very last minute feverish attempts were made to hold the meeting, something that proves a conflict, not the firmness of the decision. The PLO proved its power, but gave Jordan and Rabin the chance to continue their policy.

In the meantime, Shultz has more urgent problems: the Gulf war, for example. And the question of Palestinian representation can wait.

Shamir Position on Peace Conference Questioned

Alignment Sees 'Change'

TA211346 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
21 Oct 87 pp A1, 2

[Report by Menahem Rahat and Raf'ael Mann]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Officials in Jerusalem said yesterday that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had not consented explicitly to George Shultz' latest proposals, but had not totally rejected them either. Shamir said that it was important to find out whether the proposals were acceptable to Husayn and the Soviets.

Alignment sources claim that Shamir's consent to examine these ideas is a significant change in his stand and proof of the fact that Shamir has adopted the policy of Peres.

Alignment ministers yesterday criticized Shultz' "moderate" style and modus operandi. They said Shultz had refrained from exerting heavier pressure on Shamir to change his stand on the international conference. They further said that the allusions Shultz made about Shamir in his speech at the Weizman Institute awere hardly sufficient and that he should have been more firm in his dealings with the prime minister.

In a talk with Danish Labor Minister Mimi Stilling Jakobsen this week, Shamir said: "What we need is another step like the one made by Al-Sadat, who changed everything the moment he decided to come to Jerusalem. Peace with Israel should be Husayn's objective. We are prepared to negotiate any subject with him, day or night, without preconditions."

The prime minister praised the Reagan administration for its attempts to bridge differeces without forcing a solution upon its friends. He said this was a great advantage of the U.S. approach as compared to that of the USSR.

Commentary Sees Status Quo

TA211246 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
21 Oct 87 p A10

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "It Will Not Work Without Shamir"—words in boldface as published]

[Text] Charlie Hill, the executive assistant to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who accompanied him to his talks in Jerusalem, admitted to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that Washington had once again reached the conclusion that "it will not work without Shamir." He was referring to the issue of the international conference.

This is apparently the reason for "the new ideas" attributed to Shultz: a formula with an "international" element in it to appease Jordan and the Soviet Union, along with an explanation to appease Shamir that the reference is actually to direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan (and the Palestinians) without the intervention of an international conference. Shultz worked within these narrow margins in the 2 days of talks he conducted in Jerusalem at the end of last week.

An analysis of the substance of Shultz' basic proposal—paying special attention to the prime minister's political statement at the opening of the Knesset winter session 2 days ago—shows that the chances for a breakthrough in the peace process are rather slim, if not totally nonexistent.

Shultz tried to reconcile between Husayn's desire for an international umbrella without which—so he argues—he cannot come to negotiations with Israel, and the vehement opposition of Shamir without whom—as Charlie Hill emphasized—the international conference does not stand a chance. The way Shultz sees it, the solution is to grant some kind of status to the Soviet Union based on the assumption that if Moscow were to accept the task assigned it, Damascus and the PLO would not dare

denounce it. On the other hand, to persuade Shamir that with the auspices of the two superpowers only, along the lines of the Geneva Conference in 1973, there is no fear of Moscow imposing a solution or intervening in the negotiations between Israel and Jordan.

Although Shamir—who did not want to be depicted as a man who always says "no" and does not propose any practical alternative solution to the international conference—has not yet said the last word. Neither has he barred Shultz from exploring this idea with his counterpart Shevardnadze and with King Husayn.

Of course, the main question now is what lies behind these "auspices." If the reference is only to having the two superpowers give their blessing or having them call for peace talks, then Israel will have no objections. However, if the reference is to a framework in which the Soviet Union enjoys a position similar to that of the United States at Camp David, then as far as Shamir and the Likud are concerned the idea has no absolutely chance.

Those following Shamir's political statement in the Knesset cannot help concluding that there has been no change in his position that would indicate a turning point in the wake of the U.S. secretary of state's "new ideas."

As far as the status of the Soviet Union is concerned, Shamir stated that "the Israeli Government is prepared to hold a political dialogue with the Soviet Union about Middle East problems, just as it holds talks with all countries with whom it maintains **diplomatic relations,**" and that Israel recognizes that the Soviet Union has legitimate interests in the Middle East. Therefore, Israel would be prepared to eliminate misunderstandings, bring positions closer together, and prepare the ground for peace in the region—"all this on condition that the Soviet Union maintains normal relations with Israel and changes its position on the right of the Jewish people in the Soviet Union to return to their homeland" (alluding to the demand for "repatriation" which Shamir asked Shultz to raise in his talks with Shevardnadze in Moscow).

In other words, Shamir is demanding the full price from Moscow, including the resumption of diplomatic relations, not in exchange for Israel's agreement to Soviet participation in an international conference as perceived by the Soviet Union (an active conference which would be involved in and have an influence on the substance of the peace agreement), but in exchange for Israel's willingness to conduct a "political dialogue" with it.

In his political statement Shamir emphasized that, unlike his colleague Shim'on Peres, he does not believe that time is running out. While Peres keeps cautioning that time is running out and that only 3 months are left to exploit the current political situation to promote the peace process in the region, Shamir asserted: "We should not place any time limits on ourselves, and we should not voice regret for missed opportunities."

While once again rejecting the notion of an international conference, he thanked the United States for its support of the principle of direct negotiations and for not heeding the advice of countries (Jordan and the Soviet Union) and "various elements" (Peres, as Shamir's circle sees it) who tried to persuade it "to abandon this way" and to exert pressures on us to accept formulas and ideas whose real purpose is to impose on us solutions that contradict our vital interests.

Peres, who favors an international conference as a means for opening negotiations with Jordan, probably does not believe in the feasibility of Shultz' formula. But, of course, he cannot object to having it examined. Nevertheless, Shamir's wish, as voiced from the Knesset podium—"Let us hope this dispute is settled soon so that Israel can display a united position on this issue as well"—is not likely to come true. The impression is that from this point of view, Shultz' visit will not bring about a reconciliation between Shamir's and Peres' positions. If the idea is rejected by Husayn and Shevardnadze, the infighting in Israel may become even worse.

IDF Commander on Lebanon, Terrorist Groups

TA160907 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Oct 87 pp 6, 7

[Report on an interview with Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, by David Rudge in Peled's office entitled "Between the Flames and the Quiet;" date not given]

[Excerpt] Terrorist operations directed at targets inside the security zone in South Lebanon, and attempts to hit Israel's northern settlements are likely to remain a fact of life for a long time to come, says Aluf [Major General] Yosi Peled, OC, the IDF's Northern Command.

Hardly a day goes by without some form of incident inside the security zone, Peled revealed in an exclusive interview with *The Jerusalem Post* at his headquarters office. Not all were reported in the media. In many cases, publicity was unnecessary and superfluous, he said.

When serious incidents occurred, such as the death of three Israeli soldiers in a clash with Syrian-backed terrorists in the foothills of Mount Hermon last month, the press had a tendency to ask whether the situation inside the security zone had "erupted in flames."

"If we manage to do our job without suffering casualties and we make the appropriate responses to the situation, then everybody has the impression that the zone is quiet. If, God forbid, something serious happens, then everybody asks if the zone is in flames," said Peled.

The reality of life in the zone, according to Peled, is far removed from the general conception. "Between the flames and the (apparent) quiet there are all sorts of activities such as mine explosions, ambushes and mortar fire. They have not ceased," he said.

The future in terms of continued terrorist activities, is not rosy, Peled maintained. "In my opinion the fight to ensure the security of the northern settlements will continue for a very long time and, in all probability, the zone will continue to be the scene of daily, even hourly fighting." Nevertheless, he stressed that the IDF was more than capable of handling such situations and was prepared for all eventualities.

The security zone, in some places only a few kilometres from the Israeli border, has over the years become the first line of defence against Lebanese-based terror groups.

Peled maintained that the zone remains the best solution to Israel's security needs in the north and would continue to be so in the foreseeable future. It would be inconceivable, he said, to consider abandoning the zone until such time as there is a stable situation in Lebanon which, under present circumstances, seems unlikely.

There have, however, been certain changes on the ground and in the "bahaviour patterns" of the various organizations active in South Lebanon, notably the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. "The SLA today, a year after the wave of attacks on its strongholds, is not the SLA we knew before. It has improved its standard of manpower and professional training, resulting in a better force," said Peled.

"This means that we are now in a process whereby the SLA is taking on more responsibility for operations inside the zone, far more than we were able to give it a year ago."

Peled emphasized, however, that it would be wrong to assume that the IDF would cease operating inside, and outside the borders, of the zone, wherever and whenever it was deemed necessary. As long as the security zone remained essential in Israel's eyes, the IDF would continue to operate in the region, he asserted.

There have been reports in the past few months of the IDF beefing up the SLA and supplying the force with dozens of Soviet-made T-55 tanks to replace the outdated Shermans currently in use. Similarly, work has been continuing on reinforcing SLA positions along the border of the zone, in addition to extended basic training courses for veterans.

Did Peled, in the light of the SLA's improved capabilities, foresee a time when the IDF would be able to withdraw troops from the region? "I would like to see that time, but I don't expect it to happen in the near future," replied Peled.

"It would be stupid to take an inappropriate step at the wrong time," he said. Peled reiterated, however, the IDF was in the process of giving more independence and responsibility to the SLA.

Meanwhile, the various terror groups operating in South Lebanon, of which there were no shortage, were "not sitting on their backsides," said Peled. They were also strengthening their forces and trying to develop new methods and means to strike at SLA and IDF forces inside the zone, and at targets in Israel.

He noted that the fanatical, Iranian-financed and trained Hizballah (Party of God) was the most extreme group operating against the SLA and IDF forces in the region.

The Hizballah was largely responsible for the wave of attacks towards the end of last year and the beginning of this, on SLA positions. Initially, the Islamic fundamentalist fighters had some success until the SLA, with IDF backing, introduced countermeasures. The Hizballah, as a result, suffered a series of stinging defeats and, to all outward appearances, has been relatively quiet of late.

That, however, was not the case, according to Peled. Members of the Hizballah continued to play an active terrorist role in the area. Peled said he was convinced that they would continue to try "to hit us wherever they can, inside the zone and inside Israel."

Perhaps the most enigmatic of the myriad organizations and hostile elements operating in South Lebanon, is the Shi'ite movement, Amal.

Amal, which has by far the largest grassroots following in South Lebanon, is considered more moderate than its rival the Hizballah, also a Shi'ite organization. Nevertheless, as Peled pointed out, the dividing line between the two organizations, as far as membership is concerned, is often too thin to draw the distinction. There were extremists groups even within Amal, he said, citing the Believers Resistance Movement as an example.

In addition, Amal regards the security zone as part of its sphere of influence. As a consequence this leads to friction and often confrontation between Amal militiamen on the one hand and the SLA and the IDF on the other, said Peled.

"Amal sees itself as the group with overall responsiblity for the area (of South Lebanon). So be it," said Peled. "If Amal ensures that the area remains quiet, there is a good chance of its aim of being the main power-broker for the region being realized," he said.

The problem, however, is that by maintaining peace and order, Amal lays itself open to accusations by other interested parties that it is cooperating with Israel. That is one of the absurdities of the situation in Lebanon, said

Peled. Nevertheless, he maintained that Amal had the ability to enforce its control over Southern Lebanon, provided it could ensure tranquillity.

As far as the Palestinians are concerned, there is no change in the situation. Their stated aim, said Peled, is similar to that of the Hizballah: to hit Israeli and IDF targets, inside the zone and in Israel, whenever and wherever they can.

Would the recent agreement between Amal and Fatah to lift the siege of the Palestinian refugee camps, which had bogged down both groups, lead to an increase in Palestinian terror attacks and infiltration attempts? Peled said he was doubtful of the chances of the agreement, between two such diametrically-opposed organizations, being implemented.

His skepticism appeared to be well founded, judging by agency reports of a flare-up of fighting between Amal and Palestinian supporters of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat around two strategic hilltop villages east of the Lebanese port city of Sidon. Peled stressed that of all the organizations and hostile elements operating in Lebanon and particularly in the south, no one group could be said to be the dominant force. The balance of power was continually shifting and changing, he said.

That was another of the problems facing the IDF when tackling the terror threat from that divided and blood-stained country. "There is no single force sufficiently strong to lead any kind of process; an address against which we could act, try to find a solution, or punish," he said.

Significantly, Peled played down Syria's role in Lebanon and its influence on terrorist organizations, despite recent incidents which Israeli observers described as examples of Syria's continuing policy of attacking Israel through terrorist proxies.

These included last month's clash in the foothills of Mount Hermon, between an IDF patrol and members of the Syrian-backed Lebanese National Resistance Front, which claimed the lives of two Israeli officers and a sergeant. Four other IDF soldiers were wounded in the encounter.

"I can find lots of examples. We are still in a state of war with the Syrians. They have a thousand reasons for supporting the kind of groups that are capable of attacking and hurting Israel," said Peled. "I'm sure that each time they can give somebody arms or equipment to have a stab at Israel, they would do so gladly."

He was equally certain, however, that there were some incidents in which the Syrians were not involved.

Would Syrian influence on the various organizations, Lebanese and Palestinian, under its control, make terror attacks more prevalent? "There might be a slight increase in the amount of activities in the area, but then these activities would continue with or without the Syrians," he replied.

Referring to relations with UNIFIL, Peled described last week's killing by SLA troops of a UN Nepalese soldier while he was being transported by ambulance to hospital as a tragic mistake. The incident occurred while the ambulance was travelling along a road, north of the perimeter of the security zone, linking the South Lebanese villages of Yatar and Haris. Machine-gun fire from a SLA stronghold overlooking the road hit the ambulance. One bullet smashed through the side window of the vehicle and hit the Nepalese soldier in the neck. The soldier who had been wounded in an earlier shooting incident involving the SLA, died before reaching hospital. The SLA troops responsible have reportedly been arrested on orders of the force's command and face punishment if found guilty.

There have been other shooting incidents over the past 12 months, involving the SLA and the IDF, that have resulted in the death of at least two members of the international peace-keeping force and the wounding of several more. Said Peled: "Whenever you have so many different groups in such a small area there is bound to be tension, confrontation and accidents."

The IDF, however, had no axe to grind with UNIFIL. "It is a fact in the area; a decision of the UN which we accept and we live with it," said Peled.

On the other hand, he did not think that if the peace-keeping force were withdrawn it would really change things on the ground. Then again, he said there were places where UNIFIL troops do a good job from time to time, preventing the passage of armed elements and generally keeping the peace.

Peled stressed that here were no problems in relations between the IDF and UNIFIL, especially on a personal level. "I regularly speak with the UNIFIL commander, Maj-Gen Gustav Hagglund, by phone and we usually meet once a month," said Peled.

But of the two threats Israel faces, from terrorism and from Syria, the latter represents the greater menace to Israel's existence, despite the fact that the border has been quiet for 14 years. "There are no signs that Syria has given up the path of war and I don't think it will," added Peled.

"That doesn't mean, however, that war is inevitable. A great deal depends on how we act; what image of ourselves we project outwardly in terms of self-confidence, capability and quality." One of the main tasks of the IDF in the north, he said, was to be in a constant state of readiness, and maintain its "surprise capability."

"To ensure that kosher hafta'a [surprise capability] does not turn into a mere slogan, we have to demand the highest standards of ourselves, so that the other side will recognize us as an army that they should avoid provoking," he added. [passage omitted]

Husayn Returns From Visits to UK, Finland

JN211749 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland this evening after he and Her Majesty Queen Nur paid a 4-day official visit to the Republic of Finland at the invitation of His Excellency President Mauno Koivisto of Finland and his wife. His Majesty King Husayn held talks with his excellency the Finnish president on various regional and international issues, especially the Middle East, the Iraq-Iran war, and Jordanian-Finnish relations and ways to enhance them.

His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur also visited the United Kingdom, where his majesty met separately with George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, and Yuliy Vorontsov, the Soviet first deputy foreign minister. During the two meetings, the latest developments of the Middle East conflict and the endeavors being exerted to convene an international peace conference, to be attended by all parties to the conflict and with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, were reviewed.

His majesty also reviewed with the two officials some international issues and problems, the situation in the Arabian Gulf, the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war, the dangers posed by the continuation of this war, and the need to end it through implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598 in its entirety.

The two meetings were attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

His Majesty was welcomed upon arrival by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent; the speakers of the Senate and the House of Representatives; the court minister; the chief chamberlain; the commander in chief of the Armed Forces; the deputy prime minister; Cabinet ministers; the chief of the Royal Household; the secretary general of the Royal Court; and high-ranking civil and military officials. The British ambassador in Amman was also among those who welcomed his majesty the king.

The prime minster, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the foreign minister returned with his majesty.

GDR'S Neumann on Middle East, Other Issues

JN221219 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Oct 87 pp 24, 28

[Excerpt] Amman—Reiner Neumann, director of the Near East and Middle East Department at the GDR Ministry for Foreign Affairs, has expressed profound satisfaction with the level of relations between the GDR and Jordan. He asserted that these relations are proceeding swiftly toward consolidating political dialogue and cultural exchange on the basis of friendship, respect, and the mutual benefit of both countries.

Neumann said his visit to Jordan and his meetings with Jordanian officials were an extension of the successful meeting in New York between GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer and Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri. He asserted that he sensed a readiness by Jordanian officials to continue dialogue and to deepen bilateral relations to serve the common interests of the GDR and Jordanian peoples.

Regarding the GDR stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict, Reiner Neumann said:

Keeping the situation in the Middle East as it is warns of explosions and danger. This requires serious work for holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and the permanent Security Council members and with the participation of the parties to the conflict, including the PLO on an equal footing with other parties, considering the PLO the representative and spokesman of the Palestinian Arab people. It is the Palestine question that is the core of the Middle East conflict.

Moreover, convening an international conference on the basis of international legitimacy resolutions is the practical and sound way to settle intricate problems on a peaceful and just basis. In this regard, we support speeding up the formation of a preparatory committee of the permanent Security Council members to discuss and tackle all necessary procedures to convene an international conference.

Regarding the volatile situation in the Arabian Gulf, Reiner said:

The aggravation of danger requires that all parties should work with great responsibility to implement Security Council Resolution 598, withdraw foreign fleets, achieve a cease-fire, withdraw the two countries' forces to the international borders, and settle problems between them by peaceful means.

Leaves Amman for Damascus

JN211431 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Amman, 21 Oct (PETRA)—Reiner Neumann, director of the Near East and Middle East Department at the GDR Ministry for Foreign Affairs, left Amman for Damascus today after a 4-day visit to Jordan. During this visit, he met with a number of senior Jordanian officials and held intensive talks with Foreign Ministry officials on the countries' friendly bilateral relations and ways to promote cooperation in all areas, especially in

the cultural and economic spheres. He also exchanged views with Jordanian officials on the regional situation in particular and international issues of mutual interest in general.

Soviet Union May Agree To Sell 40 MIG-29's

JN211859 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Amman sources say that the Soviet Union, which agreed to sell MIG-29's to Syria last summer, might be willing to accept a Jordanian request to buy 40 planes of this kind. Rich Arab states will help Jordan finance this deal, which is estimated at $2 billion.

Shultz Said 'Marketing' Israeli Conditions

JN221029 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Oct 87 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Marketing Trips for Israeli Conditions"]

[Text] Shultz said nothing new when he stated yesterday that his recent tour of the Arab region did not achieve a breakthrough in the peace process. All Shultz has done is to select the lightest synonym for the failure this tour has met.

Moreover, Shultz preferred to reduce the U.S. Administration's commitment [to the peace process] as a superpower and also as a permanent member of the UN Security Council—a commitment which dictates abidance by international resolutions and will to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Hence, Shultz replaced commitment with what he called a feeling of the need for peace. He did not, however, fail to note that it is difficult to interpret such a feeling. Finally, Shultz promised that Washington will continue its efforts for the sake of peace.

Shultz' statement suggests that U.S. policy is concerned with denying the Israeli danger, which aborts the continued attempts to attain a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Moreover, U.S. policy is concerned with showing the peace process as a reconciliation between Arab and Israeli conditions. In fact, Israel does not want the peace process to be promoted. Moreover, Israel will not hesitate to affirm publicly and continuously that it will not return the occupied Palestinian land to its legitimate owners.

To do this, Israel puts obstacles before an international conference and sets arbitrary conditions to strip this conference of its powers and turn it into a mere hall where negotiations will be held and which do not prompt Israel to return land in exchange for peace. It goes without saying that Washington knows this fact and will not hesitate to make attempts in various forms to embellish the Israeli conditions. Among these attempts was Shultz' recent tour in which he failed to obtain Arab concessions.

This tour did not succeed in driving the Arabs into accepting the emasculation of the international conference. Likewise, it is certain that Murphy's current tour will not succeed in this regard. We can say, therefore, that both tours, just like all previous U.S. tours of the region, have one objective. This objective is far from attaining a genuine peace in the region and is the closest thing to marketing Israeli conditions—conditions which aim to turn the international conference from a body responsible for achieving peace in the region into a forum for negotiations which do not obligate Israel to their outcome.

We now wonder whether Shultz' promise that work for peace will continue is in fact emphasising that marketing the rejected Israeli conditions will continue.

Weekly Criticizes Boycott of Shultz Meeting

JN221012 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 22 Oct 87 p 15

["Our Frank Opinion" column: "Brothers, Your Boycott of Shultz Is Wrong"]

[Text] Palestinian figures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have refused to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in protest over the U.S. Administration's decision to close down the PLO office in Washington.

Although the reason for the boycott is legitimate, the protest could have been stronger and more effective if conveyed to the U.S. secretary of state face to face instead of being used as a pretext for not attending a meeting in which these figures could expound on the general situation of citizens in the occupied territory.

Regrettably, the action of the Palestinian figures has yielded opposite results as it gave the impression that their absence from the meeting is due to their fear of the opposition and not because of a conviction that a meeting with the U.S. secretary of state is futile. These figures would have done better to have met with Shultz and to have frankly told him their view of the U.S. pro-Israeli policy and of Arab citizens' opposition to Israeli policy and their rejection of occupation and the settlement plans pushed by the United States in favor of Israel.

If dialogue with a U.S. official will not serve the cause, it will not harm it. An open approach toward others regardless of their stands or our view of them will deprive the enemy of the opportunity to strengthen its stand and win support in the absence of an opposing Arab stand.

The Palestinians have suffered in the past from such a negative policy represented by the boycott of inquiry commissions during the British mandate, whereas Zionist bodies and organizations and Jewish delegations used to meet with members of such commissions and submit to them false information and documents. We have paid the price for such negative attitudes and lost many

friends. We failed to neutralize such commissions because we did not convey our views to them and were merely content with boycotting them and issuing hostile statements.

The Palestinian figures' boycott of Shultz will not compel the U.S. Administration to rescind its decision to close down the PLO office. On the other hand, it is not unlikely that a frank and clear discussion could have led to better results, or at least would have given the impression that the Palestinian figures were speaking for everyone, freely and without pressure or fear.

AL-DUSTUR Lauds Soviet Mideast Policy

JN220652 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
22 Oct 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Soviet Affirmation of Jordan's Prominent Position"]

[Text] The Soviet leaders' invitation to King Husayn to visit Moscow by the end of 1987 is a new confirmation of the international prestige King Husayn enjoys in various countries of the East and West.

His majesty's acceptance of the Soviet invitation is exceptionally significant. It is significant due to Jordan's special position in the Arab world and its leading national role in some of the most important regional issues, foremost among which are the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq-Iran war.

In the historic conflict that is taking place in the region, Jordan's diplomatic stand is supported and backed by various countries, particularly the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, like Jordan, is calling for the convening of an international Middle East peace conference on the basis of UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and the parties concerned with the conflict.

With regard to the Iraq-Iran war, many aspects of Jordan's stand converge with that of the Soviet Union, particularly with regard to implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598, ending the war by peaceful means, and withdrawing the forces of both belligerents to the recognized international border.

Thus, Jordan—which is preparing to host the extraordinary Arab summit in a few days—views Soviet policy on the intractable issues of the Middle East as an example of honesty, wisdom, evenhandedness, and credibility. Consequently, the Soviet Union is a true friend of the Arabs and its stands at the United Nations and outside it are respected and appreciated by the Arab peoples.

Islamic Jihad Threatens U.S. on Hostages

NC221159 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1148 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] In a statement delivered to a foreign news agency in Beirut, the Islamic Jihad Organization has threatened that the next few days will reveal to the world the actual size of U.S. capabilities. The statement adds: The American people must hasten to shoulder their responsibilities before it is too late. The European allies of the United States will not fare any better.

Islamic Jihad accompanied its statement with two photographs of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson and French hostage Jean-Paul Kauffmann.

Soviet Calls For Israeli Withdrawal From South

NC220726 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin has called for an immediate halt to foreign intervention in Lebanon's affairs, emphasizing his country's commitment to Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity. In an interview with the newspaper *Al-Nahar*, which will be published in today's edition, the Soviet official demanded that the Israeli Army immediately withdraw from Lebanon and maintained that the Lebanese must put their relations with the Syrians in order. Adamishin noted that Moscow is currently conducting consultations with a number of Arab officials, particularly King Husayn, with regard to achieving practical progress on an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Amal Executes 12 Army Pro-'Arafat Sympathizers

NC211736 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] According to security sources, Amal Movement security men have killed about 12 members of the movement's regular army in Kafr Hatta. The men who were killed were accused of sympathizing with pro-'Arafat Palestinians and of having helped them to take control of the Al-Mharbiyah and Al-Mujaydil hills 2 weeks ago.

Amal Military Source Cited on 'Regular Army'

NC211725 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 19 Oct 87 p 9

[Text] The Amal Movement has announced that its regular army has deployed on the coastal road between Sidon and Tyre. This announcement has given rise to questions about the nature of this army, which is sometimes known as the Army Partisans and sometimes as the Amal Movement's Army.

A military source in the Amal Movement has explained that the Amal Movement's regular army and the Army Partisans are one and the same. The army is similar in its organization and composition to any other army and its personnel are highly disciplined. Therefore, the source said, it deserves to be called Amal's regular army.

The personnel of the said army are on Amal's payroll and come under the authority of the movement's regional military officials. They can be seen, dressed in their olive-green outfits, manning checkpoints. They receive their weapons from the Amal Movement's Military Department.

It has been noticed that the personnel of this army confiscate any weapons found on a person, even if he is a member of the Amal Movement. In fact, the Amal security organization in Tyre has asked its members not to walk around with their weapons now that the army has taken over all the checkpoints in the area.

SSNP Radio Director Assassinated in Beirut

NC220921 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0906 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] According to security information received from the Al-Hamra' area in West Beirut a short time ago, gunmen have assassinated Habib Kayruz, radio director in 'Isam al-Mahyri's wing of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP]. The gunmen then fled to an unknown destination.

NLP Fighters Reportedly Join SLA Near Jazzin

NC220757 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] According to security reports from the south, some 1,000 fighters from the Tigers Organization of the National Liberal Party [NLP] have recently arrived in the border strip via the Al-Naqurah port. The reports add that the fighters have been deployed at positions in the Jazzin area belonging to the South Lebanese Army [SLA].

ULF Discusses Political, Economic Situation

NC220750 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] The Unification and Liberation Front [ULF] held a meeting last night at the residence of Eng 'Asim Qansuh, the Front's secretary general. After the meeting, the following statement was issued:

The members of the Front discussed the country's political and social issues and examined the economic situation that has all but brought actual famine to our citizens, thanks to Amin al-Jumayyil's disastrous policies in the economic, political, and social fields. The conferees have reached the following decisions:

First, to hold more regular meetings of the ULF secretaries, as well as meetings at all other levels, in a bid to face up to the political, economic, and social challenges and reach suitable solutions that will fulfill objectives and meet the aspirations of our people.

Second, to set up a committee for national steadfastness that will be required to ensure minimum living requirements for our toiling masses in all areas of the country.

Third, to consider the Al-Biqa' a disaster area. In this respect, the Front condemns the regime's indifference to the catastrophe that has befallen our kinfolk in this beloved area, as if it were not part of Lebanon. We call upon the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies to convene a special session to discuss this issue and to pass the necessary decrees providing compensation for the disaster-stricken citizens. We also appeal to the government to assume its full responsibility in this respect. The Front calls upon all local, Arab, and international humanitarian and social institutions to provide the necessary assistance to the ill-fated citizens.

Fourth, regarding the teachers' strike, the Front, while supporting their legitimate demands, invites the teachers' league to a meeting with the ULF leaders at the residence of Eng 'Asim Qansuh at 1200 on Thursday [22 Oct] in order to determine how to best fulfill their demands without causing any harm to the students.

Khaddam, Others Receive Richard Murphy 22 Oct

JN221154 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus—At 1115 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Dia'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister; Ahmad Saqr, chief of the American desk at the Foreign Ministry; and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Talks dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the Gulf, and Lebanon. The vice president discussed Syria's stands and policy with regard to all these issues.

Murphy and the members of his accompanying delegation held talks at the Foreign Ministry. They were attended on the Syrian Arab side by Yusuf Shakkur and Dia'ullah al-Fattah, assistants to the foreign minister, and Ahmad Saqr, chief of the American desk at the Foreign Ministry.

Al-Na'ib Receives Arab League's Ibrahimi

JN221253 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus—'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general, at 1030 today. Talks dealt with the situation in the Arab and international arenas, as well as issues of mutual concern.

Commentary Links Gulf Attack, Market Crash

JN212028 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Palestine Broadcast: From the "With the Events" program]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation: Within the struggle between oppressed peoples and tyrant imperialism, the fact which is always apparent is that the foundations of imperialist power will eventually collapse. Within this framework comes Washington's attempt to harm Iran by destroying two oil-export platforms in Iranian ports in an effort to tighten the siege around this country economically and force it to succumb to U.S. wishes.

However, the immediate result of this U.S. aggression was the crash in U.S. shares and the drop in the dollar in world markets. This created panic in Washington and forced the U.S. secretary of the Treasury to cut short his European visit and return to Washington to find ways to stop the crash. This event surpassed what happened in 1929 when the capitalist system passed through a stifling crisis that led to the appearance of Italian fascism, German Naziism, and the outbreak of World War II with all its disasters.

The stock market crash over the last 2 days vindicates the Marxist analysis that imperialism has within it the seeds of its own destruction. Imperialism needs only one or two events to be consumed by factors of destrucion. Thus, when they are faced with sudden events, imperialists panic. Each one tries to outdo his allies in plundering mankind. In this way they are transformed into wild animals fighting each other to control wealth and power. They torment themselves with their own hands.

In appearance they seem to be united in moving their fleets, but in reality they are divided. When they have to protect their capitalist interests they are prompted to cooperate against other peoples. The spirit of rivalry and struggle surmounts the factors of agreement and alliance.

Those whose policy is based on tyranny, oppression, and usurping the rights of others with the aim of securing their narrow interests, regardless of any consideration for justice and truth, will not hesitate to violate the provisions of their alliance. They become enemies if these interests make this necessary.

Now signs of an imperialist crisis are apparent, afflicting them with panic for fear that they might lose what they have usurped from others.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Awards Hero, Labor Titles in Kabul

LD220844 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0422 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 20, *Bakhtar*—A grand meeting was held at national athletic stadium of Kabul this afternoon with the participation of the delegates to the nation-wide party conference and thousands of persons from the party organisations in Kabul city, units of the Armed Forces and members of some of the social organisations in Kabul city.

Dr. Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, Politburo members and members of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the PDPA, participants of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA, corps diplomatic members of the friendly countries in Kabul participated at the meeting as well.

Addressing the participants of the meeting, Dr. Najibullah said that the decisions of the conference stipulated the ways and means of accelerating the process of national reconciliation. The execution of the decisions of the conference, he added, promotes the role of the party and would make it possible to put an end to bloodshed and fratricide.

We enter into a new phase of struggle, Dr. Najibullah continued to say, for the cessation of war and stabilisation of national peace in the country. We call upon all the party members and the people as a whole to exert efforts in expediting the process of national reconciliation and to make the process irreversible in a short span of time, said Dr. Najibullah.

Later, the decree of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA on the award of the Title of the Heroes of the DRA was read at the meeting.

Dr. Najibullah awarded the Title of Heroes of the DRA along with the orders of the DRA to five officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces who have rendered noteworthy services to the people and for the defence of the country and the revolution. He also awarded the Title of Labour of the DRA along with the orders of the DRA to fourteen workers and state employees who have heroically performed their assigned party and state duties. The awards were earlier approved by the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council.

Later, a parade took place by the military units of the Armed Forces and the Afghan athletes.

In conclusion, 'Abdul Zohor Razmjo, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and secretary of the Party Committee of Kabul City read the resolution of the participants of the meeting supporting the decisions of the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA.

Further on Second PDPA Conference Activities

Ziray on Party Discipline

LD220838 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0430 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 21, *Bakhtar*: "For me, as a senior party member who has participated in the first congress of the PDPA, party conferences of the years 1977, 1981, and plenums of the Central Committee, it is a pleasure to feel the atmosphere of comradely unity prevailing in the second party conference during the debates on the complex problems of accelerating the process of national reconciliation."

This was stated by Saleh Muhammad Ziray, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA CC in his speech at the PDPA conference held from October 18-20 in Kabul.

"We will not allow dark and dirty corners in our party home in which dirty plots are hatched, wrong rumours are fabricated and ever new conspiracies are organised. We will decisively fight against the ideology and psychology of narrow-minded persons who are hidden in our ranks, against cowardice, disloyalty, arrogance, selfishness, vociferous proudness and other dirty disgraces" he added.

Today, when the destiny of peace in the land of Afghanistan, and the future of the revolution are being determined, the party is not entitled to approach with unnecessary lenience and connive at those who, consciously or unconsciously are leading the party towards destruction. It is necessary that the most decisive approach, up to expulsion from the party, should begin simultaneously at all party levels, from the central committee to party groups, Ziray said.

Every loyal party member takes the oath before his comrades to irreconcilably and decisively fight against factionalism, sabotage, submissiveness and all kinds of manifestation of violation of party discipline, he noted.

Kawiani on International Role

LD220849 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0506 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Kabul, October 21, *Bakhtar*: The PDPA is a consistent adherent of international cooperation and internationalist solidarity, said Najmuddin Kawiani, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA to the second nation-wide conference of the PDPA.

The PDPA, N. Kawiani continued to say, considers it one of its most important duties to carry forward an unbreakable struggle for bringing revolutionary changes in the country and for affording its international support to the struggle of other people for progress and freedom.

In our world in which all phenomenas are mutually interdependent one can not defend its right for national sovereignty without the support of international progressive forces.

He added that the international credibility of the PDPA has been promoted in international sphere in view of the party's struggle for national reconciliation and in introducing progressive changes, sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan.

Participation in the congresses and international forums of the fraternal parties clearly attest to the promotion of the role and international authority of the PDPA. Representatives of the PDPA have participated in the work of thirty-two national congresses, international forums and conferences of the friendly parties and organisations during the years of 1986 and 1987. The delegation of the PDPA participated in the work of CPSU 27th Congress which opened a new chapter in the history of Soviet society. We took part in the proceedings of communist and workers parties of the Asian-Pacific region which was held this summer in Ulaanbaatar, capital of People's Republic of Mongolia.

The PDPA has established relations with a number of socialist parties in Europe, the USA and Asia. The PDPA is prepared to extend cooperation with the international socialist parties. We are, Najmuddin Kawiani said, hopeful that the policy of national reconciliation which is aimed at securing peace and abstaining from armed confrontation in the solution of domestic issues and foreign policy will enjoy the necessary support of the parties included in this international alliance.

The PDPA undeviatingly keeps up its policy to strengthen its mutual relations with national, democratic, revolutionary and progressive [words indistinct] movements which are struggling for social progress, national liberation, against imperialism and neo-colonialism.

The DRA representations do not carry forward a systematic work to propagate and publicize properly the policy of national reconciliation. We have, N. Kawiani said, diplomatic missions in 82 rpt 82 countries, only 18 rpt 18 of which have undertaken a systematic and purposeful approach to this policy. There exist objective difficulties as the government of Iran, Pakistan, People's Republic of China and Egypt have levied restrictions to this effect.

The social organisations and creative unions which are linked in different forms with 862 rpt 862 social, cultural, religious, national and international organisations should spur up their activities for publicizing the policy of national reconciliation.

Message to Afghan People

LD220852 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0436 GMT 22 Oct 87

["Message of Nation-Wide Conference of the PDPA to the People of Afghanistan"—*Bakhtar* headline]

[Text] Kabul, October 21, *Bakhtar*: "Today no ideal is closer to the mind and heart of each of our compatriot, than that of peace".

It is stated in a message of the nation-wide conference of the PDPA to the people of Afghanistan on the occasion of the forthcoming tenth anniversary of the April Revolution held form October 10-20 in Kabul.

The PDPA, reflecting the aspirations of our people who are tired of war, has come out with the initiative of carrying [words indistinct] in the country. This policy, the message says, stems from the best traditions of the people of Afghanistan. The (?policy) is in full conformity (?with the) just principles of Islam. The tenets of Islam teach us that path of peace is the path of faithful people.

The national reconciliation which is being warmly hailed by the people of Afghanistan, saved hundred thousands of peoples' lives and invited them for peaceful life.

But the national reconciliation has also its enemies. They are resorting to all forms of crimes and trying their best to create obstacles in its way.

The message invited all people, all tribes, nationalities and ethnic groups to actively participate in the struggle for establishing peace. "It would be only then, when the peace waiting for so long, will knock on the door of every house, and every Afghan family. It is only in that case that the noble objectives of the April Revolution will come true, and every Afghan can benefit from its fruits", says the message.

"The glorious celebration of the tenth anniversary of the April Revolution is forthcoming, [word indistinct] to welcome this pleasant event through success of national reconciliation. Let (?bloodshed) be stopped. Let the war and fratricide give way to the establishment [word indistinct] in the suffering land of [word indistinct].

We will inspire people in their struggle for a bright future. Let's devote your knowledge, experience and ability for the national reconciliation and for auspicious [word indistinct] transfer of reason and knowledge to the people, the message noted.

India

Gandhi on U.S. Visit, Gulf, PRC Talks

BK220348 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that the United States now understands the serious consequences of Pakistan's nuclear program and will take a right decision on the issue. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who returned to New Delhi last night after a 10-day tour to Canada and the United States, was talking to newsmen at the airport. He said he had detailed discussions on the subject with President Reagan. The U.S. senators and the congressmen have also been explained the dangerous consequences of Pakistan's efforts to acquire nuclear capability.

On Sri Lanka, Mr Gandhi said that President Jayewardene has offered amnesty for the LTTE men if they surrender arms even now. This issue was discussed with the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, who is now in the United States.

In reply to a question on terrorism in the country, Mr Gandhi said there has been some progress, but more remains to be done. He expressed grave concern at the killings in Delhi.

On nuclear disarmament, Mr Gandhi hoped that the United States and the Soviet Union would overcome the hurdles and reach an agreement on intermediate-range nuclear missiles by the year end.

The prime minister described the Gulf situation as precarious and called for utmost caution so that major powers are not involved in a confrontation.

Earlier, answering questions by newsmen accompanying him on his foreign tour, Mr Gandhi expressed satisfaction on his talks with President Reagan. He said the U.S. now realizes that India has a major role to play in this region.

Mr Gandhi said he has asked the United States for supply of certain sophisticated defense items. The U.S. Government has not supplied this kind of equipment to any other country and is taking time in clearing our list. On defense cooperation, Mr Gandhi said there has been some mistrust in this regard, but over the past 2 years it has been removed substantially.

The All India Radio special correspondent, Manohar Takru, who accompanied the prime minister, says that there is a noticeable shift in the U.S. attitude by the open admission of worry over Pakistan's progress toward making a nuclear bomb.

Mr Gandhi expressed optimism about the forthcoming Indo-China talks and said for the first time they will cover broader range of subjects.

Punjab Officials Foil Sikh Convention Try

BK220908 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, the authorities have successfully thwarted the attempts to hold a Sarbat Khalsa [world Sikh convention] at Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] in Amritsar today.

An official spokesman said that the situation in curfew-bound Amritsar city is being constantly reviewed. A meeting of senior civil and police officials is being held in the afternoon to consider lifting of the curfew.

2 Dead In Punjab; Amritsar Maintains Curfew

BK220327 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were killed and two injured in separate incidents of terrorist activities last night. In Jullundur, one person was killed and two injured when two terrorists opened indiscriminate firing in Basant Nagar locality. In Amritsar District, a farmer was killed in his house in village Uppal.

Meanwhile, according to an official spokesman, the number of preventive arrests in the state has gone up to 250. The spokesman said that all the arrested will be released within a day or so.

The curfew imposed yesterday in Amritsar city continues for the second day today. No untoward incident was reported during last night. Security around the Golden Temple complex has been tightened and intensive patrolling continues in the city.

Commentary on Vancouver Commonwealth Summit

BK201528 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1010 GMT 20 Oct 87

[Commentary by political commentator Raghunath Raina]

[Text] For more reasons than one, the summit conference of the Commonwealth countries, which has just ended in Canada's port city of Vancouver, will be remembered as a historic event. It was for the first time that Britain, which historically was the founding head of the Commonwealth, stood totally isolated, not only from the rest of the members, but also from the democratic public opinion of the whole world.

Again for the first time, the Commonwealth decided to drop Fiji, a member nation, because of the coup leader's out-and-out racial policy. On the positive side, the Commonwealth leaders were one in praising India and Sri Lanka for their agreement to end ethnic conflict in the island nation.

As a result of all these developments, the Commonwealth has acquired a new character and emerged stronger. Never before has the Commonwealth castigated a prime minister of a member nation as they did this time by accusing Mrs Margaret Thatcher of not only sabotaging the efforts to get South Africa to drop its apartheid policy, but of a nasty disinformation program to discredit the other Commonwealth countries.

In a formal statement, 47 of the 48 Commonwealth members indicted Mrs Thatcher in diplomatic language. But at subsequent press conference the Commonwealth leaders were more explicit. The Australian prime minister, Mr Bob Hawke, charged Britain of making concerted efforts through its spokesmen and the press to discredit the Commonwealth chairman, the Canadian Prime Minister Mr Brian Mulroney. He was called a hypocrite and accused of continuing trade with South Africa. The first thing, as Mr Bob Hawke pointed out, Canada has made a 52 percent reduction in her trade with South Africa last year. Against this, Britain has increased her trade by 11 percent, now totaling $1 billion.

Similarly, the Zambian president, Kenneth Kaunda, was equally forthright in criticizing Mrs Margaret Thatcher for blocking an otherwise consensus opinion for sanctions against the racist Pretoria regime. Mr Kaunda's assessment was shared by the rest of the members when he said Britain is isolated totally and that is good news. That is success of the Commonwealth. One nation could not hold out the others on such a sensitive issue which needed immediate decision.

The Zambian president declared: "Mrs Thatcher may be stronger in the financial houses in London, but we are morally more strong." It is no wonder, therefore, that some commentators have compared Mrs Thatcher with Judas who betrayed Christ for 30 pieces of silver. She is not prepared to do anything which would dislodge the minority racist regime in South Africa because Britain's trade with that country has now amounted to $1 billion, an amount which is larger than the trade of all the rest of the 47 members of the Commonwealth put together.

The Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, put the Britain role in its perspective. At his concluding press conference, he compared Mrs Thatcher's opposition to economic sanctions against South Africa to that of the late British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler ignoring the Holocaust against European Jews. Expectedly, the political issues dominated the summit discussions, but at the same time the Commonwealth leaders took note of the deteriorating economic climate, particularly for the developing countries. The financial flows to them had gone down and, in fact, much outflows of financial resources from many developing countries had gone to the developed nations.

This reverse flow of resources had created serious problems for these countries. The situation had become more acute because the official development assistance—ODA—was now far below the UN target. It was in view of this situation that the Commonwealth heads urged firstly, that donor countries should give priority to ODA fund and, secondly, ask for a substantial enlargement of IMF structural adjustment facility by the end of 1987.

Thus, taking an overall view of the Vancouver Commonwealth summit, three important points stand out: one, Britain's complete isolation and as a result strengthening of the Commonwealth; two, action-oriented program for a final assault on the racist regime of Pretoria; and three, a united stand on economic issues, particularly of those which adversely affect the developing members of the Commonwealth.

Iran

Tehran Cites AP, KUNA on Missile Attack

LD221130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] According to an *Associated Press* report, the Kuwaiti oil-loading terminal at Al-Ahmadi was hit by a missile this morning and set ablaze. The report notes that the missile inflicted heavy damage on the terminal and injured at least three people.

Meanwhile, shipping sources in the region have reported the following: A missile hit the Al-Ahmadi terminal, which is now burning. The same sources said that the sound of the exploding missile was heard at 1050 or 0750 GMT at which time no ships were at the terminal. It is still unknown from where the missile orginated or what type of missile it was.

The *Kuwaiti News Agency* has also announced: A Silkworm missile hit a manmade terminal near Al-Ahmadi this morning. Citing eyewitnesses, the news agency added: Flames were seen rising from the terminal but so far there is no information on the number of casualties, nor is there any information available yet as to the extent of the damage. Our colleague has sent a report from London on this issue which we now present.

[Begin correspondent recording] Independent oil sources, as well as news sources in London, reported at noon today that a powerful explosion shook one of the Kuwaiti oil terminals. According to reports from oil sources, which have been confirmed by diplomats stationed in the Persian Gulf, the terrible explosion took place at the Sea Island terminal, 18 km from Al-Ahmadi off the Kuwaiti coast.

Independent oil sources, including Dow Jones [as heard], have said that the explosion took place at 1030 Tehran time. Oil corporations announced: As a result of this explosion, oil exports from this terminal have totally stopped and the Kuwaiti Government is exploring the possibility of diverting oil tankers to other terminals.

According to these reports, the sound of the explosion was heard in Kuwait City, 40 km away. Reports also say that damage is very heavy. The state-run radio-television network in Britain has reported: This terminal was the only Kuwaiti terminal capable of loading supertankers. The British Oracle teletext service has also announced: This terminal was usually used by U.S. oil tankers. The Oracle service added: The explosion took place 3 days after the U.S. attack on the Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf.

Initial reports indicate that at least three people were injured; these statistics will probably rise in the coming hours. The Kuwaiti Government has confirmed the explosion and described the damage inflicted as extensive. Western sources have said: This explosion was possibly caused by a Silkworm missile. [end recording]

Iraqi Aircraft Attack Iranian Tanker 21 Oct
LD221049 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] The aircraft of the aggressor regime of Iraq has attacked an oil tanker belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf. The attack, which took place at 2035 last night, inflicted damage on the oil tanker *Kharg 4*. The tanker was close to Khark Island.

Commentary on U.S. Opinion of Raid
LD211258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1114 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Political commentary]

[Text] Following the recent attack by U.S. forces on the oil platforms of our country in Persian Gulf waters, this aggressive act by the Reagan administration has met with different reactions within the United States. At the same time, members of the Reagan administration are making considerable efforts to portray their aggression as an important event. These efforts are directed at trying to describe that aggressive move as a limited military act, to portray the whole issue as being over and done with from Washington's point of view, and to minimize the retaliatory consequences. As a result, in view of the depth and extent of opposition by the members of Congress and other U.S. politicians, the Reagan administration is deeply worried that the start of large-scale clashes in the Persian Gulf will soon give rise to extensive controversy within the United States. Therefore, the main efforts of the Reagan administration are devoted to this end and, while attempting to preserve apparant U.S. might, seek to avoid a domestic controversy. However, despite this anxiety, the aggressions and tension-creating activities of the U.S. military have continued, as seen in the events of the past month.

Furthermore, the members of the U.S. Congress are, on the one hand—and in view of their worries regarding the dangerous consequences of the policies of the Reagan administration in the Persian Gulf—trying hard to impose a time limit on the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf. On the other hand, they are extremely worried lest the imposition of those limitations further intensifies the weakness and vulnerability of U.S. forces. Therefore, it was not surprising that immediately after the U.S. military operations in the Persian Gulf, certain Congressmen, including some of Reagan's opponents, expressed their satisfaction with those actions and announced their support for them. A week ago the House speaker criticized the Reagan administration with regard to the law limiting the war powers of the President. Recently, however, he referred to the continued opposition and said that in a time of crisis the country cannot be divided.

However, it is very clear that this seeming unity and solidarity between Congress and the Reagan administration will not endure under all conditions, particularly at a time when the consequences of Washington's adventurism have been clearly seen and experienced. Each side will try to clarify the differences in its position with regard to recent events. Involvement in a military clash in Persian Gulf waters will prevent Washington from extricating itself in a short time in a seemingly honorable way by using its advanced military weapons and facilities. Insistence on military steadfastness will further intensify the blows delivered against U.S. forces. This will once again cause a repetition of the disgraceful consequences of the miltinational forces' aggression against Lebanon—only greater this time.

In any case, if the members of the U.S. Congress and Reagan's opponents imagine that practical support for Reagan's aggressive policies and a show of superficial unity is the only way to minimize the scale of the vulnerability of U.S. forces in the region, they are making a big mistake—a mistake they will not be able to rectify with the passage of time or by continued U.S. aggressive actions. In fact, the only way to safeguard the security of the U.S. forces and to prevent a repetition of the experiences of Lebanon is the unconditional and speedy withdrawal of those forces from the region. Their continued tension-creating presence will only result in defeat and humiliation.

Regardless of all these issues, as has been announced by officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Reagan administration will undoubtedly receive an answer to its aggressive act.

Commentary Urges Readiness for 'Final Attack'
NC221238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0542 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] The attack by the U.S. mercenaries on Iran's Reshadat oil platform, located 100 km off the Iranian coast in the Persian Gulf, shows that the United States has come to the region in order to confront our great

Islamic revolution. The United States has not come to defend Kuwaiti interests or to prevent the inevitable downfall of the Persian Gulf rulers. Instead, it has come to prevent the export of our revolution and its cultural values and to disprove the fact that oppression and force can be resisted and that Islam and the respect and dignity of the Muslims can be defended.

The U.S. mercenaries have come to fight the Iranians and the Muslims and to actually prove their point. However, they do not realize that a nation that has been able to resist the various threats by arrogance and the criminal attacks by the 'Aflaqi Ba'th Party will not be afraid of the Great Satan, which is nothing but a paper tiger. They should know that it is our nation's wish to confront the mercenaries of the Great Satan in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf and to score a tremendous victory.

As the imam has stated: We will have carried out our duties whether we are killed or whether we win and live. It is actually the faith of the Muslims that wins over all weapons. Unfortunately, this is something which the criminal Americans who are in the region have not yet understood. It is necessary for our good people and you, dear fighters, who are hearing our voice, to preserve your combat readiness and to wait for the final attack on the Great Satan. God willing, you will be able to score a great victory for the good, heroic, and Muslim Iranian nation.

Velayati Cables UN, Nonaligned Group, ICO

NC220645 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] Following the U.S. act of aggression against the Islamic Republic's oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, our foreign minister, Mr Velayati, sent a message to UN Secretary General Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar. In referring to the U.S. warships' attack on the Reshadat oil platform, which wounded several civilians and caused severe damage, the message states: The recent U.S. attack against the Islamic Republic of Iran is an illegal act against the Islamic Republic's territorial integrity and sovereignty. This has once again revealed the United States' hostile intentions in sending warships to the region. The message adds: The United States cannot justify its presence; such acts as the attack on the unarmed vessel *Iran-Ajr*, the attack on patrol boats defending Iran's coastal waters, or the recent attack on Iran's property only exacerbate tension in the region. It is very clear that with such aggressive acts, the United States has actively entered the imposed war to Iraq's benefit.

In another section, the message states: We regret the silence on the part of international forums, particularly the UN Security Council, concerning the tension created by the United States and the U.S. attack on Iranian vessels and Iranian property. We regret even more the fact that the Security Council has kept silent on the most important case of Resolution 598's violation by a member state. The Islamic Republic of Iran does not want to accept the fact that U.S. domination in international organizations has reached the point that such flagrant violations are met with the Security Council's complete indifference.

Another part of Mr Velayati's message to the UN secretary general reads: The Islamic Republic of Iran reemphasizes the fact that the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf and the aggressive U.S. acts in the region have created the greatest dangers threatening international peace and security. Iran states that, according to Article 51 of the UN Charter, it will resort to effective and necessary steps in order to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty vis-a-vis aggressive U.S. policies, for example, the recent U.S. armed attack. It is very clear that the U.S. regime and its allies will have to bear the full consequences for the outcome of having sparked such a flame.

Our foreign minister also sent a message to the Zimbabwean foreign minister, the head of the Nonaligned Movement's ministers. In this message, the foreign minister points out that the Reshadat oil platforms were merely economic installations and stresses: This most recent act of aggression by the United States manifests its illegal use of force against the Islamic Republic of Iran's territorial integrity and sovereignty. There is no doubt that the United States, by resorting to such acts, has actively entered the imposed war to the benefit of its aggressive allies in Iraq. The message also refers to the silence of international forums on the U.S. tension-creating policies in the Persian Gulf, particularly to the revelation of the U.S. regime's aggressive intentions in attacking Iranian vessels and territory. The message states: The Islamic Republic of Iran expects the Nonaligned Movement to condemn the U.S. adventurist presence in the Persian Gulf and its aggressive acts against a member of the Nonaligned Movement on the basis of Paragraph 23 of the 8th nonaligned summit's final communique, and to demand the immediate withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region on the basis of the Nonaligned Movement's basic principles.

The message adds: The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf and subsequent aggressive acts by the United States as the main source of tension and a threat against its territorial integrity and sovereignty. It emphasizes that it will deliver a necessary and effective answer to the U.S. policy of aggression and terror, part of which was the recent illegal, armed attack. The United States and its accomplices will obviously be responsible for the outcome of the flame that they have sparked.

Our foreign minister also sent a message to Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada, the ICO secretary general. This message refers to the aggressive U.S. objectives in the Persian Gulf and the savage attacks on Iran's economic centers there. This is a clear example of aggression against the

Islamic Republic's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The message adds: I must point out with great regret that when the United States embarked on its tension-creating policy with the unprecedented dispatch of warships to the Persian Gulf, and when it revealed its true aggressive intentions by attacking the *Iran-Ajr* cargo vessel and Iran's patrol boats, international society was silent. We now see that the United States has committed aggression against the territorial integrity and sovereignty of an ICO member. The Islamic Republic of Iran expects the ICO to act on the basis of Islamic principles and to condemn the adventuristic U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, as well as its aggressive acts against an ICO member. We also expect the ICO to demand the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region. On the basis of Article 51 of the UN Charter, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right to answer the hostile U.S. acts and defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty, and holds the United States and its associates responsible for the outcome of this decision.

Cabinet Discusses Response to U.S. Attack

LD211118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Excerpt] In today's Cabinet meeting, the latest reports on the criminal aggression by U.S. warships against Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf were discussed and the need for a decisive and appropriate response to this adventurist and war-mongering act was emphasized.

During this meeting, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi explained the goals of the visit he and his accompanying delegation made to Syria and detailed the main points of the talks held with that country's officials. He stressed that the atmosphere of these meetings with Syrian officials was friendly and sincere. He stated: In these talks we discussed the dispatch of U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf, its expansionist and aggressive aims, the quagmire into which Iraq has fallen as a result of starting the war against Iran, and the serious mistake made by Iraq's regional and Western supporters in assisting that country's defeated regime. Common views were achieved on this.

In another section of his speech, the prime minister stated: During this visit, we conveyed to the Syrian Government and nation our great nation's message of steadfastness and resistance in confronting threats by the united front of reactionaries and the United States, which are creating regional tension. We assured them that despite the wishes of the United States and other powers, our defense will continue until our Islamic and justice-seeking goals are satisfied.

The prime minister described the meetings he held with Lebanese and Palestinian ulema and fighters as very useful and the situation in Lebanon and the heightening of struggles against the regime occupying Jerusalem as hopeful.

According to our correspondent, Oil Minister Aqazadeh submitted a report concerning his visit to the Soviet Union and the understanding reached on ways to transfer oil through that country, as well as the agreements to transfer 100,000 barrels of crude to that country and receive its byproducts through the Caspian Sea. The oil minister described his talks with Soviet officials as serious and responsible, and the decisions they reached as positive. [passage omitted]

Ahani Voices Threat To Stop All Oil Exports

LD211227 Hamburg DPA in German 1114 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The Tehran leadership has threatened to stop the oil exports of other Gulf states if the United States brings Iran's oil exports to a halt by further attacks. This would have serious economic consequences for European countries and for Japan, who are far more dependent on oil from the Gulf region then the United States, said 'Ali Ahani, director general for Asian and oceanic affairs in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, at a news conference in Bonn today. Ahani is in the Federal Republic as part of a European trip and intends to hold talks at the Foreign Ministry.

He again asserted Tehran's declaration that the United States started a war against Tehran by this latest attack on an Iranian oil platform in the Persian Gulf, to which the Iranians will give a "suitable response." The United States alone will be responsible for the coming "crisis." The United States' goal is to disrupt efforts by the UN secretary general for a just solution to the Gulf conflict.

"The United States will certainly regret its action," Ahani said. In response to questions, however, he gave assurances that any Iranian action would not be directed against U.S. bases and institutions in other countries, because their sovereignty would be respected. However, this does not mean that Tehran will restrict itself to the Gulf.

During the news conference held at the Iranian Embassy, Ahani was reticent on the attitude of the Bonn government. Bonn has shown understanding for the United States' actions but has also expressed concern over developments in the Gulf. He said that it is in the interests of all European peoples not to allow themselves to be drawn into the United States' "adventurism." Tehran is also "not happy" with the fact that Bonn assisted the United States by sending three warships to the Mediterranean, although the German position is much better compared to that of many other countries.

Ahani described relations between Tehran and Bonn as good. He said that after the release of Alfred Schmidt, the German held in Lebanon, Iran will certainly continue its humanitarian efforts. Moreover, he said he hoped that Rudolf Cordes, who is still in captivity, could be released. However, this is not in Iran's hands.

He described Moscow's attitude on developments in the Persian Gulf as positive and welcome. The Soviet Union condemned the latest action by the United States and started from the premise that foreign forces must leave the Gulf.

Vows 'Decisive Response'

LD211848 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Bonn, Oct. 21, IRNA—It was the U.S. which initiated a war against Iran and it will never be a party to put an end to the conflict, said Iranian Foreign Ministry Director-General for Political Affairs 'Ali Ahani here Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference here, Ahani vowed that Iran will give a decisive response to the U.S. naval attack on Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf Monday, although it has so far exercised self-restraint.

U.S. adventurism in the Persian Gulf is a bid to boost its domestic economy and policy, but injurious to the economy of European countries and Japan, he said.

Noted the official that one of the aims of the U.S. attack on the platforms was to overshadow efforts by U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar to find a just solution to the Iraqi-imposed war.

The U.S. attack, he said, was also aimed at encouraging the Iraqi regime to continue its raids on cargo ships and Iranian oil installations in the Persian Gulf and diverting public opinion from the political set-back suffered by the Reagan administration.

The Foreign Ministry official said that the U.S. is trying to create difficulties in Iranian oil exports. "If Iran's oil exports through the Persian Gulf are cut, no other Persian Gulf state will be able to export its oil through this waterway", he warned.

Continued the official that the U.S. is trying to wriggle out of its eco-industrial bottlenecks through the crafty transfer of these difficulties to Europe and Japan. European countries and Japan should be alert against the U.S. trap, he added.

The recent U.S. provocative acts, which amount to declaration of war on Iran, have pushed the region to the edge of a serious crisis, Ahani said, noting the only solution to the Persian Gulf crisis is withdrawal of all foreign military forces from the region. Persian Gulf security is the responsibility of littoral states, he added.

Asked about the role of West Germany in the issue, Ahani replied that Iran believes that involvement of European countries in U.S. adventurism is not to the benefit of these countries.

He also described as 'positive' the Soviet stand castigating the U.S. attack and said both Moscow and Tehran believe that all foreign forces should withdraw from the Persian Gulf.

Rezai'e on Output, Sources of Weapons

PM220923 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 Oct 87 p 2

[Reprint of *Tehran Times* interview with Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Commander Mohsen Rezai'e; date, place, and name of reporter not given]

[Text] *Tehran Times*: The recent developments in the Persian Gulf region indicate that the conflict between Iran and the United States has deepened. What will be the reaction of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], as the most powerful force in the area, in terms of responding to the recent provocations?

[Rezai'e] The Persian Gulf waterway belongs to the countries along its shores. No country other than those which border its waters has the right to a military presence in Persian Gulf waters. We regard the American entry into the waters as a clear aggression and a military occupation. It is intolerable to us to have the Americans occupy the Persian Gulf, which has strategic, economic, political, and military value for us.

This was reason enough for us to become embroiled with the Americans. So far, we have shown great patience. Of course, we will reply to the Americans for the attack on the *Iran-Ajr*, and the IRGC patrol boats, at a time of our own choosing. The Americans should rest assure that as long as they are in the Persian Gulf, they are in effect at war with us, particularly as we see that the United States closely cooperates with Iraq. Dozens, at least, of Iraqi jets overfly U.S. aircraft carriers and then come and bomb our islands and oil areas. The whole world knows that it is not possible for a jet fighter to overfly an aircraft carrier without prior coordination.

Tehran Times: If the United States decides to deploy troops in the area, what will your actions be?

Rezai'e: Just as we kicked the Iraqis out of our Islamic homeland with all their tanks, guns, jet fighters, and helicopters, we will undoubtedly do the same to the Americans. We will either take them prisoner or send them to hell.

Tehran Times: The IRGC has recently started to build long-range and medium-range missiles. What are the characteristics of these missiles, and when will they be used against the enemy?

Rezai'e: It is some time now since the IRGC started to copy missiles made by the West and East in both design and manufacture. It has made some progress in terms of making these missiles for the battlefields, keeping in mind the advance of world technology. This investment has now paid off and, with the help of God, when it

comes to missiles our limitations are about to be removed. For example, work has started on the enhanced-range Scud-B missile, and with the help of God these will be made soon.

Tehran Times: In the recent clash between IRGC speedboats and U.S. helicopters, it is said that one U.S. helicopter was shot down by a Stinger missile. Were these Stingers bought, or were they some of the 16 said to have been taken from the Afghans?

Rezai'e: As we announced on the news, the Americans started by attacking our boats and fired on our boats with their helicopter gunships. Our brothers, who had all kinds of equipment available, also had several Stinger missiles. They attacked the helicopters, and we announced over our radios that we had hit a helicopter. We confirm our fighters' report that one U.S. helicopter was shot down in the Persian Gulf.

I must add that we have many more than 16 missiles. The Americans have just woken up to the fact that we have gotten these things right out of Washington. It could be several more years before they realize how many of these missiles we have. Meanwhile, we have been copying many of these missiles for the past year, and we are sure that the Americans will not find out how many of these missiles there are or how they got here. It is also time for me to deny that these missiles were bought from Yunis Khalis.

Tehran Times: How advanced are we in the manufacture of 107-mm projectiles and frigates?

Rezai'e: We have been producing 107-mm projectiles in bulk and do not need to buy them from outside. In this area we manufacture all the shells and grenades inside the country.

Tehran Times: The missiles that hit Baghdad—are they Scud-B's? Where do they come from? Is it possible that we might be able to hit Baghdad more often with these missiles if Iraq continues its mischief?

Rezai'e: We are almost on the verge of self-sufficiency in this area. I must add that we used to buy similar missiles from various countries before.

Tehran Times: How many of the Persian Gulf countries have so far agreed to cooperate on regional security?

Rezai'e: Countries like the UAE and Oman. These are the countries that have stayed neutral. Other nations have committed some unworthy actions that have proved their support for foreign countries. These things will not be hidden from us.

Kuwaiti, Saudi Aid to United States Detailed
LD221102 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] London, Oct. 22, IRNA—Military and financial support and the supply of intelligence to the American forces in the Persian Gulf is much greater than what regional countries have so far admitted, according to a well-informed source.

A large number of American military personnel stationed [as received] at Saudi air bases in the east of the country and Kuwait is financing a substantial part of the US military protection for reflagged Kuwaiti tankers.

At the same time Iraqi warplanes have used Saudi air bases for refueling purposes in numerous instances.

A Western reporter who has just returned from a visit to regional Arab states described the extent of Saudi military support for the American forces as "astonishing."

"American military advisers along with a large number of backup military personnel have been stationed at big Saudi air bases in the Eastern Province," the reporter told IRNA.

The presence of American militarymen at Saudi bases is nothing new but in recent months their numbers have increased substantially.

"Their most important activity is to run a huge intelligence network against Iran. Information about Iranian air and sea movements gathered by AWACS surveillance aircraft, which are mainly manned by Americans, are transmitted to the American Navy and from them to the British and French Navies and other Western forces in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman."

Saudi authorities have not spoken about such activities because of internal and external sensitivities and have tried to give an impression that their cooperation with the American forces is very limited.

It is thought that the reason for their silence is that reports about the wide presence of American forces in Saudi Arabia might provoke the Muslim population especially at a time of heightened tensions between Iran and America.

The Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia has the highest concentration of Shi'a Muslims and there have been several clashes between the people and the authorities in the past.

On the other hand revelations about further military cooperation with the US could damage the standing of the regional states in the Arab world and bring more pressure on the delicate relationship between Iran and the southern Persian Gulf states.

Meanwhile, according to the reporter who works for a permanent Western newspaper the Saudis have actively supported Iraq in its long-range air raids on Iranian economic targets in the Persian Gulf.

On numerous occasions the Saudis have permitted the Iraqi warplanes to refuel at their air fields. The Iraqi Air Force has also been given landing permission in Abu Dhabi in one or two 'emergency' situations as well.

The level of Kuwaiti military cooperation with the Americans is less compared to the Saudis, he added.

"But the Kuwaitis are pitching it with money. They are paying almost all the costs for the American escort operation as well as the cost for two US floating bases in the Persian Gulf."

The source quoted a banker who handles Kuwaiti funds as saying that the Kuwaitis were paying dlrs 2 million a day for the US military escort of 11 of its tankers.

Bahrain has provided the Americans with an "enormous" naval base which is used for docking and servicing. The American Naval personnel can be seen in the island's bars with civilian clothes and have been ordered to "shut up" when asked by locals about their occupation and political views.

The Americans have also leased several large storage facilities in Qatar for fuel, medical equipment and other supplies.

Foreign Minister Visits Cuba, Nicaragua

For reportage on the visit by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Cuba and Nicaragua, see the Cuba subsection of the Caribbean section of the 19 October Latin America *Daily Report* and the Nicaragua subsection of the Central America section of the 21 October Latin America *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Reportage on Visit of Indian Lok Sabha Group

Arrives 20 Oct

LD210828 Tehran IRNA in English 0811 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—Speaker of India's Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) Bal Ram Jakhar heading a parliamentary delegation arrived here Tuesday night on an official visit and was welcomed at Tehran Mehrabad airport by Iran's Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During a five-day visit, the delegation is scheduled to discuss issues of mutual interest, bilateral relations and their expansion.

In an interview with IRNA on his arrival, Ram Jakhar said that the delegation is visiting Iran at the invitation of Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Asked to comment on the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, he said that India has always been opposed to the presence of foreign forces in the region because their presence is conducive to tension.

Leader Interviewed on Objectives

NC210534 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Islamic Majlis Speaker Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed Indian Parliamentary Speaker [name indistinct], who arrived in Tehran last night for an official 5-day visit heading a parliamentary delegation. During the course of his visit, the Indian parliamentary speaker and his accompanying delegation will meet with the Islamic Majlis speaker and other officials of our country and exchange views with them on topics of mutual interest and Indian-Iranian ties.

In an interview with our correspondent, the Indian parliamentary speaker referred to the objectives of his visit and said: This visit is being undertaken at the invitation of the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, who had invited Indian parliamentarians to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran during his trip to India.

In response to a question regarding his opinion on aggressive U.S. actions in the Persian Gulf, the Indian parliamentarian said: Our main objective, which we consistently espouse, is that no foreign power should maintain a presence in other regions because this invariably leads to tension. He added: We desire talks and negotiations as a means of resolving problems.

Meets With Majlis Speaker

LD211944 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, the speaker of the Indian parliament, who is paying a visit to Iran at the head of a top-ranking parliamentary mission, met with Mr Hashemi-Rafanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and held talks with him today.

Expressing hope for the expansion of trade, as well as cultural and political ties, between the two countries, the speaker of the Indian parliament said at the meeting that the Islamic Republic of Iran and India share a parliamentary system and hold similar positions. Therefore, they can cooperate with each other. Referring to common historic ties and the objectives of colonialists, the speaker of India's parliament said: They intend to bring about instability so that they may perpetuate their presence. Therefore, we must be fully aware and rely solely on ourselves. In the same way that your country is self-reliant and independent, we too rely on ourselves.

We want the Indian Ocean to be a zone of peace. The present situation and the acts they perform are a source of worry for us. [sentence as heard]

The speaker of India's parliament also said: Brother countries and developing countries must help each other, stand side by side, and rely on themselves.

In reply, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Since the beginning of the revolution, we have always considered having vast and sincere cooperation with your country. Fortunately, there is no obstacle to expand the ties between our two countries; rather, there are many reasons pointing to increased cooperation on a daily basis.

He said: Our two nations have experienced the agony of Western colonialism. Our two nations are still coveted by Western coloniaism and are within the operational zone of the conspiracies of Western colonialism. Cooperation between our two countries can lessen the danger of the expansionist states in the region.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly referred to the existing situation in the region and added: Since the Islamic Revolution, the Indian Ocean has once again become a sensitive area. The fact that the NATO fleets are expanding their presence in this region in an uprecedented manner has many connotations. As we are familiar with their objectives and background, we must not believe that their coming here is due to a political frenzy; rather, we must realize that they have plans for a long-term presence. They used to think that the existence of governments like that of the shah of Iran, the rulers of Arabia, and other rulers like them would make their official and open presence unnecessary. However, after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, that assurance was taken away from them and they were forced to revert to their old ways. We are determined to resist very seriously and we are certain that we can block their return to this place.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Obviously, in this area those countries can give our struggle minimim political support. They themselves suffered throughout their past existence under the domination of colonialists and can understand such dangers in future. We believe India is one of those countries, and a vangaurd among them.

Referring to the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, the representative of the imam on the Supreme Defense Council, said: Fortunately, during the past few years, despite being involved in the war, we have been able to strengthen our defense capability. At present, our postion is such that if the gates of our country were closed, we could stand on our own feet relying on our own resources, and defend ourselves. Meanwhile, our people have demonstrated they are ready to endure the difficulties of a struggle against the major powers.

In conclusion, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly referred to the recent Security Council resolution, and added: We have declared a specific method for politically resolving this problem. We said that the Security Council must emphasize the clause on naming the aggressor. This is one of the Security Council's main duties. If they had declared that Iraq had committed an aggression when the Iraqis had advanced 80 km inside our territory, then the war would not have reached its present extent. We still say that all of you who know who the aggressor is must declare it officially. This is the key to the solution of the war. However, they are so one-sided that they do not want to accept this.

Iraq Executing Dissidents Under Martial Law

LD201343 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Text] Stockholm, Oct. 19, IRNA—The Iraqi regime has arrested hundreds of Iraqi mujahidin and murdered countless prisoners over the past few days by imposing martial law under the pretext of conducting census, the organisation for human rights in Iraq announced here today.

The organisation called on world people to seriously think about the Ba'thist dictatorship in the Muslim country and try to find a way to save the oppressed Iraqi people.

Iraqi agents interrogate Iraqi families whose children are abroad, and savagely torture them in the presence of other members if they do not report on their children's activities abroad, said two representatives of the organisation. By these barbaric measures the Baghdad regime tries to keep a track of its opponents outside the country, it noted.

"No country takes census by imposing a martial law and by means of tanks and howitzers," said the representatives.

They expressed surprise that Eastern and Western countries despite their claims of defending human rights have turned a blind eye to the Iraqi regime's terror as if their embassies in Iraq do not convey any information in this regard to respected states.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 2,996

LD211658 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions throughout the fronts Tuesday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy troops, said a military communique here Wednesday.

The 2996th communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses and their engineering operations were checked in Nahr 'Anbar and Mehran, western sector, by Iranian artillery fire Tuesday.

The communique said that the artillery fire of Iran's Muslim forces destroyed an Iraqi watch post in Yebis, southern fronts Tuesday, killing all enemy scouts.

Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of the southern city of Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, several times Wednesday but were repelled each time by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire without carrying out any bombing missions, it said.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iranian surface-to-air fire foiled Iraqi air violations in Marivan and Panjwin, and an Iraqi tank unit in Sayyid Sadiq sustained heavy losses by artillery fire Tuesday.

Movement of Iraqi vehicle columns in Zobeydah, southern sector, was checked by Iranian artillery fire Tuesday, concluded the communique.

Ramadan HQ on Operations in Iraq

LD221138 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] According to the report from Ramadan Headquarters, the center for the irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, guerrillas of the Ground Forces of the Guards Corps and the Kurdish Hezbollah forces, in a series of operations against the forces of the Zionist Iraqi regime which took place on the Diyanah-Mirgah Sur Road in Iraq's Irbil Province, destroyed one of their vehicles and killed 10 of the Zionist enemy, including an intelligence officer of the Iraqi regime. During these operations, four persons, including two Iraqi NCO's, were captured by the forces of Islam.

According to the same report, Lieutenant Salam Ahmad, commander of the 4th Battalion of the Commando Brigade of the I Corps of the Ba'thist armed forces, together with his driver, were captured by the Peshmerga of the Popular Union of Iraqi Kurdistan in an ambush operation.

Pakistan

Senate Chairman Named Acting President

BK211608 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in Bangkok on an official visit to Thailand today. King Phumiphon Adunyadet received the president at the airport. Thai Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon, the deputy prime minister, and the foreign minister were also present at the airport to welcome the Pakistani president. [passage omitted]

The Senate chairman, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, will be the acting president during the president's foreign visit.

President in Thailand for Trade Talks

For coverage of President Mohammed Ziaul Haq's visit to Thailand on 21-24 October, see the Thailand section of the 21 October East Asia *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

Sri Lanka

Amnesty, Protection Offered to LTTE Members

BK211525 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1510 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Colombo, Oct 21 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The Indian Government in concurrence with the Sri Lanka Government offered the LTTE cadres full security and protection by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) if they surrender all arms, an Indian High Commission official told a press briefing in Colombo this evening.

The offer was made over the SLBC (Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation), the national television network 'Rupavahini' and AIR (All India Radio) and leaflets had been widely circulated. Announcements are also being made over loudspeakers.

The offer, made in the overall interests of the Tamil people of Sri Lanka, appeals to all cadres of LTTE to hand over arms to the IPKF.

Those militants who hand over arms will be provided full security and protection by the IPKF.

They will also be granted full amnesty in terms of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, to enable them to participate freely in the democratic political process in Sri Lanka and live with honour and dignity in the island.

Intercepted radio messages indicated that the LTTE fighters were in favour of giving themselves up.

Outlining the situation, the official said that there was an overall forward move on every front.

All major landmarks in front of the fort were under IPKF control. The IPKF from the western Manipay axis has linked up with the IPKF outside the Jaffna Fort.

House to house fighting was going on at the centre of the town and exit routes from all sides had been sealed.

From Rumpirai after clearing landmines the IPKF encountered stiff resistance and have now reached the municipal limits.

Subsequent to destroying LTTE strongholds the IPKF from Kopai North met stiff resistance in Kopai South.

The IPKF from Navatkuli is quite close to a link up with the IPKF outside Jaffna Fort. In the process the peace keeping force has also seized claymore mines, explosives and ammunition cached in a large house.

In the eastern front yesterday, 13 suspects were arrested. Among those apprehended are Chitravelu and Sinnen. At Trincomalee the rail tracks between Trincomalee and Prima jetty which were heavily mined have been cleared. The IPKF is providing medical aid to civilians. The Trincomalee town hall has been put into use for this purpose.

Large numbers of civilians are leaving Jaffna town but large numbers are still in the city, held back by LTTE pressure and intimidation.

Refugees are provided cooked food and rations by the IPKF from the IPKF stores.

Casualty list: IPKF killed 127, injured 379, missing 27.

LTTE 607 killed and 264 captured.

LTTE Leader Rejects Offer

BK211642 Hong Kong AFP in English 1631 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Text] Madras, India, Oct 21 (AFP)—A leader of the Tamil rebels fighting Indian forces in Sri Lanka was Wednesday quoted as saying his group had rejected an amnesty offer and the battle would continue.

Indian Tamil politician V. Gopalasamy said he was told by Sathasivan Krishna Kumar, alias Kittu, of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE): "We will not surrender or lay down our arms."

Mr. Gopalasamy, a member of parliament for the opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), said Mr. Kittu told him that LTTE guerrillas were fiercely resisting Indian peace-keeping soldiers attacking their stronghold in the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

Mr. Kittu is a close confidante of LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran and the group's former Jaffna regional commander.

Mr. Gopalasamy quoted him as saying: "Heavy fighting is raging in Jaffna town (and) the situation there is very bad for the civilians."

The LTTE leader, who lost a leg in a grenade attack in Jaffna in March, quoted LTTE radio reports as saying Wednesday that Indian artillery was firing an average of 500 shells a day in Jaffna.

He reiterated that Indian helicopters were strafing the area—a charge denied by New Delhi.

An official Indian spokesman had announced earlier Wednesday that the peace-keeping force was appealing to LTTE fighters to lay down their arms and accept an amnesty.

The force was established under a July 29 Indo-Sri Lankan accord that also called on Tamil separatists to lay down their arms and accept a political settlement.

Mr. Kittu is under virtual house arrest here in the Tamil Nadu state capital.

Armed police have been posted around his residence and the LTTE office, while all visitors, bar a few politicians, are denied entry.

Madras Police Commissoner Walter Devaram was not available for comment, but a police officer outside the LTTE office told an AFP correspondent: "I can't let you in and Kittu cannot speak to people."

Indian Forces, LTTE Continue Battle for Jaffna

Indians Take Kopai South

BK211622 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The peacekeeping force has started clearing Jaffna city of all resistance, and established firm positions at many places. These are the town hall, Veerasinghe Hall, the library, the council hall, the clock tower, and the bus terminal. A hotel has been surrounded by the peacekeeping force.

Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today, an official spokesman said that the Kopai South area has now been cleared of all resistance, and pressure has been mounted as the peacekeeping force is moving toward Jaffna on the Palaly-Jaffna axis and the Kankesanturai-Jaffna axis. On the Navatkuli axis, progress has been made toward the residency and the kutchery [court] of the government agent. Advancing south on the Kankesanturai-Palaly-Jaffna axis, the peacekeeping force has captured the LTTE positions at the crossroads of Kopai South and east of Kondavil. On the Navatkuli axis, they have reached the area of Jaffna court where fighting is continuing. The peacekeeping force has already entered Jaffna city on the west and is engaged in eliminating pockets of LTTE resistance.

The official spokesman said constraints of fighting in the heavily built area, coupled with the need to save innocent civilians, makes this phase of operations difficult and complicated.

In the last 24 hours the peacekeeping forces' losses were one killed and five wounded. The overall casualties of the peacekeeping force are 127 killed, 300 wounded, and 27 missing. [passage omitted]

LTTE 'Far From Giving Up'

BK220234 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 22 Oct 87

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] Amid reports that Indian forces in northern Sri Lanka have strengthened their hold on the center of Jaffna, the government in Delhi has announced an amnesty for all Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka who lay down their arms. However, our correspondent, Phil Jones, who has just returned from a trip to Jaffna organized by the guerrillas, says they are far from giving up the struggle:

[Begin Jones recording] It was obviously in part to refute Indian claims that they had been cut off, that the Tigers took myself and two other journalists on an arduous 13-hour trek along dust roads and rutted jungle tracks before entering the center of Jaffna by a series of backroads. This tour included the sight of smashed buildings and conversations with scores of angry refugees. But despite repeated requests, we were not taken to any of the five areas of the town directly in the firing line. But refugees from those areas insisted that the Indian Peacekeeping Force was making no progress at all in the face of fierce opposition. Certainly the sound of guns was some way away. Well over 300,000 people have left their homes and are packed into designated safe areas, like Hindu temples and schools. But there are numerous and serious complaints that the peacekeepers have shelled those as well, shot many innocent civilians out of hand in their homes, and killed over 300 more with their ill-aimed artillery.

According to one medical man, seven shells hit the hospital and its grounds in 6 hours on Monday. They are without water and electricity. The surgeon complains that in his operating theater without air conditioning his sweat drops on to the supposedly sterile patients. The Indians, it is said, have failed to provide more diesel for the emergency generator.

The refugees say that the Indians' behavior is worse than their Sri Lankan opposite numbers who, 6 months ago, were being accused of genocide by the northern Tamils. Jaffna's Red Cross chairman said he has been asked by the citizens to get assistance from all nations who value human life to save them from what they see as eventual annihilation. [end recording]

Central Jaffna Secured

BK220310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force has completed mopping-up operations in the central part of Jaffna town. Our correspondent, reporting from the city, says that now the troops are fanning out to other areas to flush out LTTE remnants. An exodus of people from the town is reported and they are being moved to safer places. Meanwhile, more consignments of medicines have arrived in Jaffna from India. The Red Cross is making arrangements for distribution of medicines to the suffering people.

Offensive 'Nearly Over'

BK220740 Hong Kong AFP in English 0721 GMT 22 Oct 87

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Oct 22 (AFP)—Indian troops have launched a mopping-up operation to flush out Tamil rebels in Jaffna town and end a 15-day-long military offensive in northern Sri Lanka, officials said here Thursday.

Indian peacekeeping troops had also fanned out to areas around Jaffna in a bid to seal off escape routes amid reports that some units of the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had fled the besieged town.

The officials said the strategy would "discourage" the rebels from trying to escape Jaffna through sealed exits and force them to accept an amnesty offered by New Delhi Wednesday.

The Indian troops were also searching for LTTE rebels in the Eastern Province, Army officers here said.

The officials said Indian troops had launched an offensive against the LTTE guerrillas in the heart of Jaffna in a bid to wipe out remaining pockets of resistance in the LTTE stronghold.

The Indian amnesty offer Wednesday came as Indian troops smashed guerrilla defences and captured key points in Jaffna after fierce fighting which saw heavy casualties.

"The peacekeeping troops should now ensure that they (LTTE) have no other option but to accept India's offer, surrender arms and call off their war against the Army," a senior Army official told *Agence France-Presse* here.

Observers here said the amnesty offer and a promise that the LTTE could "live with honour and dignity in the island" indicated that the offensive was nearly over. [passage omitted]

Food, Medicine To Be Distributed

BK220709 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 22 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force has taken control of the hospital, the railway station, and the school in Jaffna town. According to a message just received, these places were secured by the peacekeeping force columns advancing from the west. Earlier, the column had secured the bus stand and the town hall. The peacekeeping force has also taken control of the residency, the former government agent's residence, and the secretariat. The force is advancing further from Kopai town, (Marathana Madam), and other fronts. They will be dropping 2,000 food packets to the refugees in Nellur temple and other shelters. The medicines, which have arrived in Jaffna, will be taken to Jaffna hospital after completion of mopping-up operations around the area. Reports say the LTTE are preventing the peacekeeping force from sending the relief medicines to the hospital.

An intercept of the LTTE [as received] last night claimed that a lot of buildings will be set on fire today. A spokesman said this is a clear proof that the LTTE has no consideration for its own people.

Editorial on 'True Nature' of LTTE 'Terrorists'

BK211425 Colombo SUN in English 15 Oct 87 p 7

[Editorial: "India's Moment of Truth"]

[Text] What was obvious to the Sri Lankans a long long time ago is only becoming painfully apparent to the Indians now. If the true nature of the terrorists was ever in doubt, then Monday's incident where five Indian soldiers were captured by the Tigers and later brutally chopped to pieces would have driven home the message to the Indians that the Tigers are not a guerrilla group fighting for the rights of their people but a demonic band of ruthless murderers beyond the pale of human redemption.

Thus we are glad to note that, even at this late hour, the Indians have accepted this salient truth and have launched an offensive against the Tigers. We are also glad to note that they have also realised that the LTTE is unfit to serve on any administrative council. It was an absolute folly to ever even have hoped that a group of people, long conditioned to believe in violence as the sole means of achieving political demands, can be brought into the normal mainstream of political life.

The cut and thrust of debate, the ability to accommodate various shades of opinion, the use of compromise as a way of settling disputes are not the stuff of a group used to exercising absolute power over the masses of that area; a group who would not hesitate to order (as they have done on countless occasions) the wholesale slaughter of innocent civilians, women and children included, in order to make some petty point.

This fact alone should have been apparent to the Indians a long time ago but for some reason best known to themselves, the Indians continued to hold otherwise and pandered to their every whim even to the extent of not demanding the total surrender of arms which the Indians were under a duty to do under the terms of the peace accord.

Today, due to all this mollycoddling the Indians find themselves in the same position that the Sri Lankan Army was in the month of June. At that time when the Sri Lankan army was making great inroads in their offensive against the terrorists, there were claims of genocide levelled against the forces; and the Lankan Government was sternly warned by India that India would not tolerate a military solution to the problem. To underscore their strong disapproval they even violated Lankan airspace in order to make token food drops.

It is ironic, is it not, that the very same people who condemned Lanka then are now embarked on the same course of action in a bid to crush the Tiger.

Having said all that, we only hope that this present offensive is not one launched merely to pacify a shocked world aghast at the Tamil terrorist massacres, but one which will be seen through to the very end until this murderous band of terrorists is wiped out from the face of this earth.

Even as the acts of a few rampaging Sinhalese during the'83 riots brought lasting shame upon the Sinhalese, the murderous and barbaric acts of violence done in the name of the Tamils of this land against innocent civilians by the Tamil terrorists in these last four years have besmirched the collective conscience of the Tamil people; and the sooner the Indians are able to rid this country of these vile men masquerading as freedom fighters the better it will be for all concerned.

Thus we are glad that the Indians have finally launched an all out war against the Tamil terrorists. It is a pity, however, that more than two hundred innocent civilians had to die last week before India arrived at its moment of truth.